



Ceiling Collapse Creates Chaos, Cancellation

BY ANDREW BARR, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The plans of the entire school were thrown into question on October 27 when a misplaced pipe burst and flooded in the West Wing.

Students rejoiced in the parking lot at the news that classes were cancelled while administrators and construction representatives scrambled to repair the damage.

According to Mr. Flynn, the problem was due to a pipe placed in the ceiling above the “Bayside stairs,” which are immediately within the new entrance. The pipe, which was too short, had been forced into the socket of another pipe. The awkward fit of the two pipes led to a buildup of pressure, causing the burst that leaves the future of the new wing in doubt.

The problem threatens to carry over into the rest of the school year. Mr. Flynn reported that the burst caused a “major leak,” severe ceiling damage, and possible damage to the underlying wood structure.

The burst, while unexpected, was foreshadowed by two minor leaks that have occurred in the past two weeks. Mr. Flynn mentioned a leak in the Classics



Bookroom that flooded the floor and destroyed brand new books.

A BLS faculty member informed the Argo that an administrator first noticed a puddle on the floor near the stairs at approximately 5:50 a.m. Assuming that it was another minor leak, the administrator notified Mr. Flynn and Suffolk Construction. When the heat was turned on later in the morning, the pipe lost integrity and collapsed.

It appears that a “sweat joint” was to blame for the accident. This joint connects the two pipes, and according to the teacher who spoke to the Argo, it seems that “faulty workmanship” was involved.

However, Suffolk Construction representative Dan Santana says that BLS administration overreacted to the break, and that it had not been necessary for school to be cancelled. Mr. Santana claims that the pipes have been tested at 130 pounds of pressure, the maximum legal amount that the pipes can carry, and says that the break was likely a result of a material failure, not of Suffolk negligence. “We could have had school today,” he said, “if we’d just brought kids in through different doors.” In fact, the problem was being handled as early as 6 a.m., with Mr. Flynn and BLS custodians presiding. The break was completely fixed by 8 a.m.

The Argo asked BLS security professional Barbara Russo about Mr. Santana’s claims. She said that, since the water had to be shut off to repair the leak, the school would have been crippled, with bathrooms and water fountains out of service. The dining hall was also closed, leaving the school without a place to assemble incoming students and without facilities to provide breakfast and lunch for students. “The [tardy] desk was completely covered with water,” Ms. Russo said, describing how the water rose to knee-level. “It was like



Niagara Falls down there.” Dean of Discipline Mr. Fulton agreed, saying there was “no way” school could have been opened.

Meanwhile, teachers milled about the building, looking for answers. Science teacher Mr. Shluzas said that the only information teachers had officially received was from Ms. Kelley. He himself learned about the incident and

school closing from WBZ radio station, but he expressed concern that WBZ may not have had the whole story. He felt that the information on the radio was “too general” and failed to delineate the parties responsible for the collapse.

Fortunately, the break was repaired in time for the Gridiron Club’s annual Spaghetti Dinner. And, after a good meal and a sigh of relief that no further damage had ensued, Mr. Flynn noted in an email to the blsparents listserv that Suffolk had handled the problem in a professional manner, and congratulated the company for its “educational” approach to the accident.

City, BTU Compromise

BY MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II
News Editor

In October, the Boston Teachers Union and the School Department agreed upon a new three-year contract. Although union leader Edward Doherty warns that “this is a labor agreement, not a vehicle for education reform,” the contract will affect the future of Boston Latin School and other high schools in Boston.

Under the new contract, high school class size must not exceed thirty one students. This will affect the exam schools where seats are in high demand and classes tend to push toward or above the maximum. Chief Operating Officer Michael Contompasis anticipates that BLS will not reduce the number of students offered admission, but that a few additional teachers will be hired to meet class size limits.

Three pilot high schools are on the drawing board in a plan to create more seats for Boston’s booming teenage population. One of these will be an “alternative school” for “disruptive students,” which will isolate students who repeatedly infringe upon school rules or bring drugs or weapons to school. Doherty claims this is a victory for teachers, saying, “We can’t allow problem children to disrupt learning in our high schools.”

Under the old and new contract, any school can restructure into smaller learning communities with a vote from the School Site Council and a two-thirds vote from the faculty. When Class VI moves from the Annex to the main building next fall, BLS can vote to maintain a whole separate Class VI cluster. Mr. Contompasis says, “I tried to do that ten years ago and they thought I was bringing down the walls of Latin School.” The Annex has shown that students thrive in a more intimate environment.

Clustering is more difficult to achieve at large comprehensive high schools, but three district high schools — South Boston High School, Dorchester High School, and Boston High School — are being restructured into smaller learning communities. South Boston High has been split into four independent clusters, each with its own principal, vice

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John Yessayan

BY GINA BRUNO, I
Contributing Editor

The light rain mingled with young tears on the morning of Thursday, October 5, 2000. The Latin School community spoke in whispers and smiled gently with heavy eyes. Children too young to comprehend life itself understood that they had lost a precious link in the Boston Latin chain — fourteen-year-old John Yessayan.

On October fourth, Boston Latin lost the popular freshman after he collapsed while running warm-up laps before football practice. Despite numerous attempts by Coach Costello, Coach Farrel, and EMTs to revive him, John could not avoid the inevitable for this young angel to return home.

There are no answers for the young girls who beg an invisible entity to justify why Johnny was called at such a young age, but there are open arms. Stung by premature death, the student body was devastated, but it mirrored John’s own qualities of compassion, selflessness, and unity to support each other in a time of tragedy.

John was said by Rashad Bryant of Class V to have befriended everyone regardless of preexisting circumstances, a characteristic which was more than evident on Thursday and throughout John’s services. Strangers leaned upon barely recognizable shoulders and were received with all of the warmth and compassion. A senior bent to hug a freshman she had spoken to once, only to later turn to a classmate

who would support her. The shadow of grievance was so dark that most overlooked the glimmer of prevalence among the sadness. However, like a juvenile army, students gathered together in honor of a fallen soldier.

The football teams had an intensified response to John’s death, but it consequently had an even more intensified response to each other’s emotions. Relying of the stability of Coach Costello, whom Brian Farnkoff, I, considers an unsung hero, the team emotionally supported each other, but also knew that John’s memory must be as present as it would be if he were on the field with them. Not only did the football team dedicate the rest of its season to John, but they also placed two stickers on each helmet which displayed the number forty, the number on John’s jersey.

Furthermore, John’s football locker stands a living memorial with his soiled cleats dangling still from the locker’s grates. The locker itself is adorned with the number forty and three paw prints in addition to numerous pieces of white athletic tape which display the names of the members of the freshman football team. Before every game or practice, they touch John’s locker as a constant reminder of their own ability and opportunity to play football. They have gained a new perspective on athletic success and have learned

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Becca: It's been a really long time since I have felt the joy and elation that I felt today. It was as if I had this intense realization that in fact, there is a god, and s/he loves me

institution. I think the most important addition to our periodical would have to be our brand-new logos, personally designed by Boston Red Sox utility infielder Manny

... very, very much. But somehow I ended up spending the day at school anyway, and I think I have been sitting in the "mac shack" for the last ten hours.

Andy: Oxygen ... need oxygen. OK, Becca. Let's discuss the changes we've made to our beloved

Alexander!

Becca: Yes, and I would like to know what you think about Jonah's plans to turn this into a Communist publication named after his car *The Red Scare*.

Andy: Screw that. Focus for a second: We've basically overhauled the format of the Argo. We've added new features like "Jackson's Action" and our very first Ombudsman's Report. Can you believe that Diego is actually working on a school project?

Becca: His cynicism adds a refreshing element to the paper.

That's one thing we just don't have enough of here at the Latin School: cynicism and bitterness. I also appreciate his inability to be sarcastic. He is, as they say in JP, "such a kid."

Andy: Wow. You are so bitter that I can't even tell when you're being sarcastic. That's so very sad. How much more space to we have to fill up with this ridiculous excuse for an Editor's Note?

Becca: This should just about do it: Sheep are funny sheep are funny sheep are funny and so are ducks!

Andy: I never thought I would start to miss Rolo.



Q: Hey.
A: Only questions, please.
Q: Ok. Sorry.
A: Come on, man. We're not here to fool around.
Q: Do you allow any sixies to work on your staff?
A: Only if they can write decent "Ask the Argo" questions. As you can see, we had no sixies on this

down when he got out of line. And from now and forever more, Rolo's absense will live in the hearts of the Argo staff.
Q: I really liked that movie "Fight Club." What's the best way for me to start a fight?
A: Put Joe Coffey and Jonah Birch in a room with the lights out. Give Joe a book about Communism, and

give Jonah a book about Capitalism. Then, while they're going at it, throw a kilt in the middle and the fight will be on.
Q: How old is the Argo?
A: I don't know. And you don't need to. So why don't you mind your own business?
Q: What's the point of having a pep rally outside and after school?
A: The administration has done extensive research throughout the country. It has been proven through numerous studies by local universities that true school spirit is brought out only in after school hours and outside of the natural school habitat in the freezing New England weather. Sounds like they're exactly right. I think we'd better listen to them.
Q: Why didn't we have school on the last day of the first term.
A: First of all: You forgot the question mark. Now, to answer your "question," the reason we didn't have school on the last day of

first term was because the entire cafeteria blew up at 6:00 a.m. that day! There were floods and guns flying all over the place!!! And there was blood too!
Q: Did all that really happen?
A: Yeah. It really did! ... and Joe Coffey was running around looking for ducks in the basement.
Q: So ... Did he find any?
A: No. He just ran into Greg Porter a few times. He suspected Greg of hiding them.
Q: If any of my friends have any questions for the Argo, how should they go about asking them?
A: Write them on the back of a postcard and send them to Rolo at Harvard. Then ask him for the \$9000 it cost the school to print last year's color issue. Failing that, take his wallet.
Q: OK
A: Nor a question.
Q: Sorry.
A: That's it, this session is over.

Et Cetera

Visit the Argo on the Internet at: www.blsargo.org

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to bls_argo@learntoquestion.com, given to Andrew Barr, 101, Rebecca Tumposky, 136, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the main office

1998 New England
Scholastic Press
Association Superior
Achievement Award

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1996 3rd Place Winner of
Suffolk University High
School Journalism
Competition

1994 1st Place Winner of
New England Scholastic
Press Association
Competition

Hey! Fun Contest!
The person who spots the most typos in this issue of the Argo and sends them to one of the editors wins a special position as Guest Copy Editor in Issue II!



The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents and alumni. The expressions, suggestions and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editors. The Argo reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.
The Argo is produced as an extracurricular activity. Typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.



The City of Boston makes an exception to its sign template for its oldest school and proudest educational tradition. Translations may be submitted to your favorite Classics Department member for scads of extra credit.

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New Faces

By JIE SONG, II AND COLEMAN FLAHERTY, II

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ms. Freeman



What subject do you teach?

I am teaching Facing History and Ourselves this year, and I am the chair of the SEEVAK, the only alumni-endowed position at BLS.

Where did you grow up?

I am originally from New York.

What were your previous jobs?

I have been teaching high school for three years. I am a Mandel Fellow. I student-taught here with Mr. Idzik and Ms. Gilligan, and recently I held a position at Concord-Carisle School, but came back to BLS. Before that, I had been a curator of modern art in art museums in Los Angeles, New York, and Washington. I am also the author of *Picasso and the Weeping Women*, *Mark Tansey*, and *Fauve Landscape*, which the Queen of England opened. In 1990, I was dubbed “Knight Dans l’ordre des Artes et Lettres” by the Fench government.

What do you like most about BLS?

I love the students. That is why I returned. I admire their intelligence and seriousness about thinking and learning, and it is really exciting just to be here.

What colleges did you attend?

I did undergraduate studies at Vassar, doctoral studies at Yale, and I obtained my Masters in History and Art at John Hopkins and my Master of Education at Tufts.

What is your favorite quote?

“Those who do not study and learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”
— George Santayana, an alumnus

Dr. Foreman

What subject do you teach?

I am teaching tenth grade World History. I have five sections and close to one hundred fifty students.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Philadelphia.

What were your previous jobs?

Previously, I taught at various colleges such as Wellesley and Tufts. I also had a career as a technical journalist and writer during the ‘80s, but that ended, and for a while, I was at home with two kids.

What do you like about BLS so far?

I like the students here at BLS: They are very motivated, intelligent and smart people, they have no sense of entitlement; in other words, they do not take for granted their abilities and possibilities, and they do not expect to get something for just being who they are.


What colleges did you attend for an education?

I graduated from University of Pennsylvania, and I did my graduate and doctoral studies at Harvard.

What is your favorite quote?

My favorite quote is, “Everything is connected to everything else,” by Lenin. I think it is very important to history because without making connections, history is just one fat jumble of facts and dates.

Dr. Maun



What subject do you teach?

I teach Math.

Where are you originally from?

I am originally from Jamaica Plain.

What do you like most about this school?

I like both my colleagues and my students.

What college did you attend?

I got my doctorate in math at UMASS/Amherst.

What do you want students to walk away from your class with?

I want to teach my students to become independent learners.

At what other schools did you teach?

I taught at English High, Latin Academy, the Edwards and Emerson College.

Mrs. Dubracard

What subject do you teach?

I teach French, Italian, and German.

Where are you originally from?

I am from a town called Marseilles in Southern France, near the Mediterranean.

What do you like most about this school?

It’s such a big school, it makes it hard to get used to, but I like the students. They’re very different from the students in France. BLS students are a lot nicer.

What college did you attend?

I attended Boston University.


What do you want students to walk away from your class with?

I want students to realize that there are different countries. A lot of Americans don’t realize that there are foreign countires since America is so big. People in Europe know so much more about us than we do about them.

What is your favorite quote?

“Chi va piano va sano e lontano.”

Mr. Byron



What subject do you teach?

I teach Art at the Annex. (Actually I was new last year but was in the annex, and was never in the Argo.)

Where are you originally from?

I am from New York.

What do you like most about this school?

The kids are very friendly. It reminds me of a school for special kids that I taught at because the friendships last forever.

What college did you attend?

I attended The Phoenix School of Art.

What do you want students to walk away from your class with?

I hope my students will walk away from this class with the love of art and the ability to solve problems.


Where else do you work?

I usually work on murals, such as park benches and the front of the ELC.

What is your favorite quote?

“Advice is free, knowledge is expensive.”

Ms. Ledang



What are you teaching?

I am teaching Latin 3 and Latin 4 this year.

Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Boston and I am a product of the Boston Public School System.

What are your previous jobs?

I taught Latin at Reading Memorial High School. I have taught all levels of Latin and also some Spanish, but the classics is mainly my love.

What do you like most about BLS?

I like the multiculturalism I see here becaus, where I come from, most of the students are middle-class Caucasian children. I like BLS students, who are intelligent, highly motivated and have great work ethics. I also like the fact that Latin is required here.

Where did you go to college?

I did my undergraduate studies at the College of Holy Cross, and right now I am working for my Masters in Education at Curry College.

What is your favorite quote?

“We learn not for school, but for life.”
—Anonymous

Ms. Arnold



What subject do you teach?

I am teaching U.S. History this year.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in northern Maine, way north.

What were your previous jobs?

I have done all kinds of things. I have been a counselor for teens in trouble, I have been a teacher, a mentor in an early intervention program for developmentally delayed children, and I have student-taught here with Ms. Russell in the Connections program.

What do you like most about BLS?

I am thrilled to be here, to have an opportunity to learn what teaching should be: a blend of art and education. I love how intelligent, funny and wonderful the kids are, especially the eighth graders, who are in the vortex of time when girls are bigger than boys and when their possibilities are just tittering on the brink. My only rule for them is: “No Slugs.”


Where did you go to college?

I did my undergraduate studies at Bryn Mawr and my graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School, from which I also have a Masters Degree.

What is your favorite quote?

“Welcome, O life, I got to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the sithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race.” I especially like this quote because it expresses such a sense of embracing life, for we are sharing our lives with each other in BLS during only these few years. So bring it on!

Mr. Forina



What subject do you teach?

I teach Latin.

Where are you originally from?

I was born and raised in Italy.

What do you like most about this school?

The students are willing to learn. They are motivated and not cynical.

What college did you attend?

I got my ADCD from Boston College. I also attended Rutgers and Middlebury.

What do you want students to walk away from your class with?

I want to teach and follow the syllabus and try to teach students that learning is fun. They can learn and have fun at the same time.

What is your favorite quote?

“Non bonis sed optimes ut meliores.”

Mrs. McClain

What subject do you teach?

I teach Physical Education at the Annex.

Where are you originally from?

I am from Worcester.

What do you like most about this school?

I would have to say the friendly atmosphere that the faculty provides, and the children are wonderful and respect each other.

What college did you attend?

I attended Emmanuel College right down the street.

What do you want students to walk away from your class with?

I want students to walk away with positive lifelong lessons.


What is your favorite quote?

“Think positive and achieve your dreams.”

Do you have any interesting facts about yourself?

I am the lucky seventh child out of a family of fourteen.

Ms. Yu



What do you teach?

I am the Assistant Director of the Saturday Success School.

Where are you originally from?

Hang Zhou, a very beautiful resort city, in China.

What previous jobs have you held?

I worked for the Davis School Department in California.

What college did you attend?

I attended Zhe Jiang University Law School, and I got my Masters in Law at UC Davis Law School.

What do you like most about BLS?

I like the tradition, the high standards of academics, and the challenge in training to prepare for college.

What is your favorite quote?

“Ask not only what the school can do for you, but what you can do for the school.”

News From The Annex

By JARIEL ARVIN, VI & QI FENG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & STAFF WRITER

They are just a couple of blocks removed from the core of the Boston Latin School community, and yet they seem so far away. No, they are not the Backstreet Boys. For the second consecutive year, those adorable, cuddly sixies are occupying the Mission Grammar School building, which is right across from Huntington Avenue and in a growing sprawl of townhouses. Each morning, 400 of them can be seen tugging at their inflatable backpacks and squeezing shoulder-to-shoulder into the cramped confines called the cafeteria — wait until they get a hold of this “dining hall” concept. The Class of 2006 will be the last class to embark on their Latin sojourns here as the hectic

renovation on the main building comes to a close.

This is a class with no shortage of lawyers and politicians. Many have concerns about their second home. One of the most conspicuous problems with the Annex is the gym, or lack thereof. Seventh-graders take Physical Education either in the limited space of the cafeteria or a nearby park. The impending snowstorms hamper the current arrangement. Regular exercises and games not only build competition and teamwork, but also provide a means of relaxation from the sixie’s daily stress. Since the facility is small, the only solution seems to be reducing gym class size.

Speaking of which, the Annex is crowded, even by BLS standards. The classes

are rarely smaller than 25 kids, but perhaps more indicative, and even dangerous, are the building dimensions. The stairwells barely measure three feet, and the hallways about ten. Such an enclosure leaves little breathing room. Chances of tripping and falling are also high because as one class exits from the top floor and another ascends from a lower floor, it is impossible to avoid collisions, especially with those hefty L.L. Bean backpacks. Most students have trouble passing through the hallways of the Annex, and there are 400 of them there.

However, most sixies enjoy the intimacy of this atmosphere. They believe it can build important foundations for friendship between everyone. In addition, the building offers interesting activities such as

sixie socials, parties with arts and crafts, and dances. “We like the freedom of the Annex,” says Margaret Lam, a proud member of HR A25. Most students here can back her up on this because they are surrounded by other seventh graders. They do not have to worry about myths such as “Sixie Rush Day” and the “Fourth Floor Swimming Pool.” “We only have to worry about ourselves,” she concludes (at least until they get to the main building).

The Annex is a work-in-progress that has many things to resolve. With the leadership of Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Bagwell, a multidisciplinary, multifaceted faculty and an outstanding and cooperative class, everyone here will grow together and have a smooth transition back onto Avenue Louis Pasteur. The Annex is doing just fine.

New Honor Code Enacted

By KATIE McDONALD, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I pledge to uphold the Boston Latin School values of honor and integrity. I will not lie, cheat, plagiarize, or steal. I will not vandalize any school property, or property belonging to the members of the Boston Latin School community. I know that if I violate this honor code, I will be disciplined according to school policy.”

This is the new Honor Code that every student who attends Boston Latin heard at the class assembly. It became effective September 6, 2000, and is now responsible for upholding the principles.

The Honor Code was composed by the Academic Integrity Committee, a group of concerned parents, students and teachers. The idea of an Honor Code originated at the School Site Council. Parents, students and teachers at the council were appalled at reports of the rampant cheating that occurs everyday at Boston Latin. The committee members know that eliminating cheating is impossible; they do, however, want to achieve three goals with the Code. First of all, the committee wants to support students who don’t cheat and let them feel that there are ways to succeed without cheating. Secondly, the committee wants it made known to all students that there are consequences for cheating, lying, stealing, vandalizing and plagiarizing. Finally, the committee wants to call attention to a school

atmosphere that consists of respect for one’s work and the works of others.

Unfortunately cheating occurs almost everyday at Boston Latin in a very casual way. Many students do not feel that copying homework is a form of cheating. Now that an Honor Code has been established all students must evaluate themselves according to the Code. The Academic Integrity Committee defines cheating as “using materials unauthorized by the teacher during a test, sharing test answers with another student, copying someone else’s homework, using unauthorized study aids, and making unauthorized grade alterations.”

People lie, cheat, steal, vandalize, and plagiarize. This is sad but true. The Honor Code was established because the level of integrity at our school needs to be raised. In the ideal world, a school would not need an Honor Code, but this world is far from that ideal. This code conveys to students that the lowest common denominator will not be accepted, and that they need to raise their integrity or at least be aware of the now-uniform consequences they will face if they are caught. Hopefully students will take notice of the Code and begin to honor and uphold the integrity that is necessary for a school community to be productive for everyone.

John Yessayan

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to appreciate football for what it is—a game.

Beyond the football teams in general stands out one young man who was a particular strong-hold — Elie Saroufim, the captain of the freshman team. Elie was more than just a captain; he was one of John’s closet friends and remained with Coach Farrel and John’s family and friends at Children’s Hospital on October fourth until the tragic news was delivered to them. Brian Farnkoff believes that during this time of tragedy “we [the team] couldn’t have gotten through it without Elie. It was evident in his demeanor that he was a leader and a pillar of strength to support everyone.” When asked how he might feel if someone were to consider him in such a light, Elie humbly responded, “Consider me? I only wish I was more like [John].”

When one enters Boston Latin School, he becomes part of a community, a near family, united by a common goal and common struggles.

John Yessayan was undoubtedly a part of that tightly knit family and always will be, as his spirit will live on in the integrity and sincerity of his nature. The Boston Latin School Community has recognized its own unity and uses John as the epitome of all that it represents. His beautiful smile will live eternally on the faces of his brothers and sisters in his Latin School family.



The Varsity Football Team has established a John N. Yessayan Memorial Scholarship; any donations can be give to Coach Costello or Dennis Castro in homeroom 102.

New Curriculum Breathes Life into “Dead” Language

By CAITLIN GILLOOLY, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Classics Department at BLS has developed a new Latin curriculum, one aimed at peaking the interest of students and encouraging them to take AP Latin in the 11th and 12th grades.

The changes were implemented this year, which means that the first class to be affected will be this year’s sixies. The class of 2006 will only have to take four years of Latin, as opposed to the five years now required of Classes V-I. B-sies joining the Class of 2006 will still be required to take three years of Latin. In addition, there will be a Latin Honors class made available to

students in ninth grade.

Changes transcend curriuclum requirements; the quality of the classes themselves will change, with the addition of new textbooks and more varied readings in third and fourth-year Latin. For example, rather than reading one author for the entire year, classes may begin to read one author each term, which besides being less boring, gives students a broader Latin education and view of Roman history from different perspectives.

Why are these changes taking place? Dr. Peter Cohee, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming in 1994, says that there was no external force such as parents or the administration pushing for changes. He feels that the school’s Class II is already rife

with challenging courses, and mandatory Latin might be an unnecessary burden. In addition, Dr. Cohee claims that the national standards for high school Latin set in 1996 can be met in four, possibly three years.

Latin teachers also offered interesting perspectives. Ms. Wong stated, “I’d rather have [Latin students] start in eighth grade instead of seventh and take four years from there.” Her colleague Mr. Tedeschi asserted, “I think that only the future will tell, but new, more interesting electives could add new life to the teachers, to the students and to the department.”

What about the students whom the overhaul will affect? Caitlin Sheehan of Class VI exclaimed, “I’m glad [the requirement was

lessened] because Latin is a dead language and you can’t really use it.”

Both Mr. Tedeschi and Dr. Cohee feel that the Latin courses should teach more than just the actual language. The former believes that the knowledge of many Latin school teachers in fields related to Latin such as ancient history, Roman social life and customs, and even archaeology has gone untapped for years. In the Classics’ department “Principles and Purposes” statement, Dr. Cohee writes, “Language study without historical and cultural context is meaningless.”

Teacher Pact Promises Changes for High Schools

(BTU, Continued from Front Page)

principal, and budget.

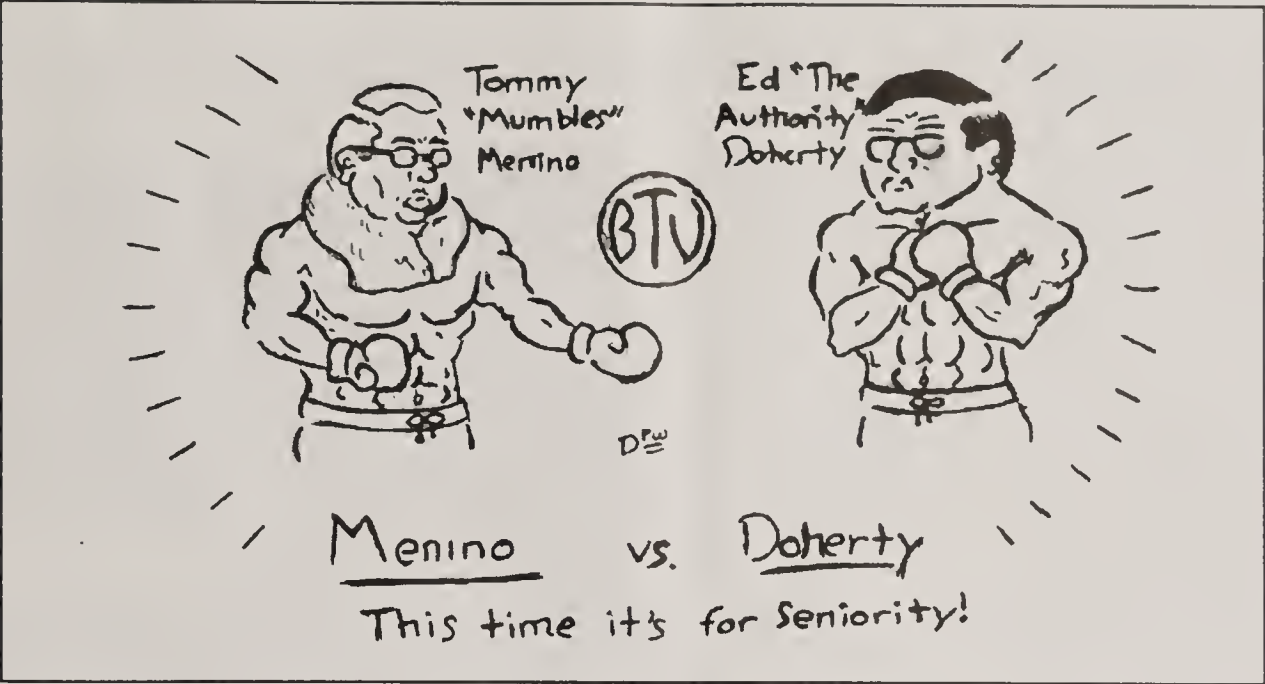
The new contract allows a school to redesign its schedule with the approval of just 55 percent of the faculty, instead of the former two-thirds vote. This may allow for more innovations in the structure of the school day. For example, block scheduling would allow for longer uninterrupted science labs and more in-depth class investigations. As Mr. Contampasis noted, "A cookie-cutter schedule of seven 45-minute blocks in a row does not work for everyone."

The contract does not address the issue of a longer school day, which would cost more money. One of the main challenges for BLS is fitting art, music, and other electives into an already crowded schedule. Some think the solution is a longer school day.

The School Department is placing more emphasis

on teacher evaluations. The new contract allows the headmaster and department heads to observe any class for a short period of time, and it requires the headmaster to

interning at BLS and other Boston schools so that the Boston school system can make job offers to promising interns before they look for jobs elsewhere.



complete a formal evaluation of every teacher biannually. A teacher with an unsatisfactory evaluation loses contractual preference for transfer to another school, and a teacher with three or four consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations can be fired.

Under the new contract, a first year teacher can apply for and be hired for his own position, even if a more senior teacher applies for the same job. This will help schools retain promising new teachers.

A newly hired Director of Human Resources is focusing on teacher recruitment, as a significant portion of teachers are expected to retire in the next seven years. He is interviewing people currently

Mayor's Youth Council

By GABRIELA PÉREZ-HOBRECKER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Mayor's Youth Council was established in 1994 to provide Boston's youth with an opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and other city officials about issues that are important to teens. The idea behind the Youth Council is that the Mayor is will hear what teens actually want, not what an adult says that teens want.

The Mayor's Youth Council consists of thirty-six representatives from each of the sixteen neighborhoods in Boston. There are two representatives for each neighborhood except for Dorchester, which has six representatives because of its size. The members of the Council meet throughout the year as a citywide group to discuss the projects in the neighborhoods that they represent, take part in workshops, and share information with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and other city officials.



Participants, who are selected through an application process, apply in the spring of their sophomore or junior year and are generally committed for two years, until their graduation from high school. All candidates must have knowledge of youth issues in their neighborhood, take part in a group interview, and provide two letters of recommendation. Mayor's Youth Council applications are sent to all high schools, as well as to agencies that serve youth. Applications may also be obtained at the Mayor's Youth Summit office and through current Mayor's Youth Council members.

One of the Councils most recent accomplishments include helping to change a law that allowed only those eighteen-years-old and older to obtain Massachusetts state identifications. This change lowers the

minimum age from eighteen to sixteen and allows sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds without a driver's license to obtain official state identification, which can be used for banking and employment purposes as well as for identification for college entrance examinations.

This summer the representatives researched the programs offered to teens by centers in their neighborhoods. Information about the programs was recorded and used to update the Mayor's Youthline Web site, www.bostonyouthzone.com, which provides information about all sorts of resources that young people can use, and will be available in a few weeks at. Also over the summer, surveys were handed out among teens asking them to rank issues in their lives from high to low importance. The topics surveyed included after school jobs, recreation, alcohol and drug usage, college and career guidance, and M B T A transportation. This information is used to help the Council decide which issues to focus on during the year.

The Mayor's Youth Council also works with other city programs. The Council works closely with

the Hopeline to ensure that teens have information about summer jobs, to demonstrate how important a job is for a teen, and to lobby for funding for the program. The Mayor's Youth Council is also the coordinating program for the Mayor's Youth Summit, providing information on topics the Summit should cover and resources teens need, and running the meetings.

Several of Boston Latin School's students are members of the Mayor's Youth Council: Carrie Pierce, II, Back Bay/Beacon Hill; Annemarie Fratalia, II, Charlestown; Wendy Lee, II, Chinatown; Kathryn Meade, I, Dorchester; Ashley O'Brien, I, East Boston; Jared Deflurin, I, Hyde Park; Amanda Martin, II, Jamaica Plain; Erico Lopez, I, South End; Celia Ho, II, South End; and Nicole Hogarty, I, West Roxbury.

King of the Mill

By LILY WONG, II & SHU LUAN CHEN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Boston Latin is traditionally renowned for its constant development and production of the most talented students of the country in academics, art, and athletics. The Guidance Department is central to this phenomenon: It not only

markets seniors to prestigious institutions, but also nurtures the scholars in times of need.

Fresh to this mill of learning is Mr. Montague, the new Head of Guidance. He can often be seen in the hallway outside room 108, toting a notepad sprawled with notes that run the gamut from progress reports to college particulars.

When he first heard of an opening at BLS, Mr.

Montague was ecstatic about the prospect of working in such a prestigious environment, one that he considers to be "the best public school in the country." He plans to know everyone on a first-name basis, even though he is frustrated at being held back by the immense size of the student body.

Since taking the helm, Mr. Montague has been looking at ail of the functions and operations of his department in order to enable a more efficient management of student affairs. An issue of utmost concern to him is the assignment of counselors. At present, every student maintains the same counselor upon entering the school until the end of sophomore year. For the junior and senior years, students are assigned counselors who are more familiar with the college application process. Mr. Montague maintains that although six years with the same individual allows the student to know the counselor better and to have "the

confidence to confide in private affairs," the needs of an eighth grader are different from those of an upperclassman. This issue is a priority and Mr. Montague wants everyone to contribute ideas and suggestions.

When asked about his major

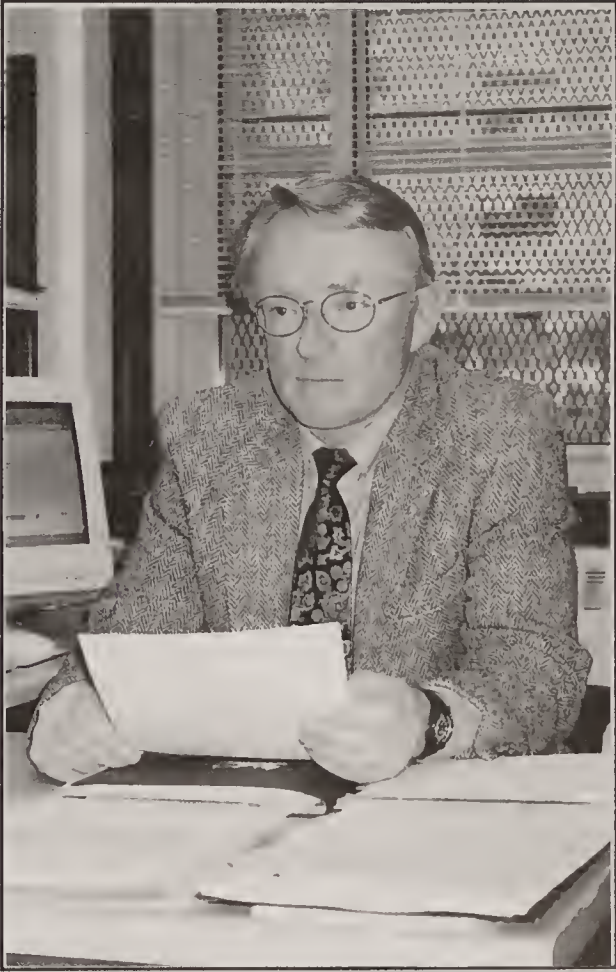
concerns, he stressed the importance of the seniors' college admission process and his eagerness to answer any questions that may arise. This invitation is extended to the rest of the student body, as well.

Because of the tough academic environment at Boston Latin School, Mr. Montague feels that it is all the more important for students to maintain

communication with their guidance counselors — not just to ask questions but also to talk with a willing listener about other problems that they may be going through.

As Mr. Montague acknowledged, "It can be difficult to find a time to meet guidance counselors independently due to the busy schedule of the school's curriculum." The time in the morning before homeroom is limited by the bell, and students are not permitted to go to the guidance counselors during class except in the case of extreme emergencies. In addition, many students are busy with extracurricular activities after school. While Mr. Montague feels that the positive side of the school environment and the demanding courses is the preparation for college, these challenges often pose problems with stress and pressure both in and out of school.

"And this is where we guidance counselors come in," Mr. Montague concludes, "Don't ever be afraid to ask for help."



Election Special

Jesse Jackson Has Big Feet: Andy at the Debate

BY ANDREW BARR, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I think the highlight of the evening was when the Rev. Jesse Jackson almost broke my left foot. I was patrolling the Media Center at last month's Presidential Debate at the UMass/Boston campus, craning my neck to catch a peek at such luminaries as Karen Hughes and Andy Hiller. OK, maybe "luminaries" is a bit of a stretch. But an organization called "Kids Voting USA" had recruited me to volunteer in the Media Center, and I was taking advantage of the situation to gawk at the immaculately combed spin doctors loitering outside the bathrooms and near the doorways of the hockey rink.

So, I suddenly ran into this huge guy wearing a navy suit. He took a step backwards and nearly trampled my foot. That's when I realized I'd seen this guy before on TV. He was Jesse Jackson, giving an interview at the same time his foot was looming dangerously close to me.

More name-dropping: I stood next to Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson in the bathroom. I was pleased to note that even governors observe proper male restroom behavior: eyes straight ahead, feet shoulder width apart.

I personally gave a nasty look to George W. Bush strategist Karl Rove. He's the one responsible for much of the politicking that colors the campaign from the

Republican side. In all fairness, I should have also glared at the Gore spokesman giving an interview to CNN, but at that moment, I was distracted by the appearance of one of our foremost political thinkers, a giant among men, an intellectual powerhouse in jeans and tennis shoes. I refer, of course, to Al Franken.

The brilliant liberal commentator, author, and comedian was standing just feet away, making some crack about "fuzzy math" to a camera. It was one of those inspirational moments, or it was until some guy from CNBC ran me over with a sound trolley.

At this point, the reader might get the impression that I spent the evening staring at minor celebrities and making a total dork of myself. However, while I was doing all that, I was also working for a group called Speche Communications. They were printing and distributing real-time transcripts of the debate. I was handing them out to the many reporters gathered in the room. Reporters, I learned that night, get cranky in such close quarters. One noted Boston media icon, who shall remain nameless because he's probably still looking for me, stalked me for a good five minutes, shouting, "Where's my copy?!?!?" and waving his fist.

And the debate? Well, I actually didn't get to see all that much of it, between colliding with talking heads and taking abuse from the guy who was writing a column entitled "Musings.com." But I think what I did see was much more valuable: the political process at work – spin being thrown out left and right, reports being written, democracy in action. It was a magnificent sight. And, of course, I did get to meet Al Franken.



"It was one of those inspirational moments, or it was until some guy from CNBC ran me over with a sound trolley."

Campaign.com

BY QI FENG, II
STAFF WRITER

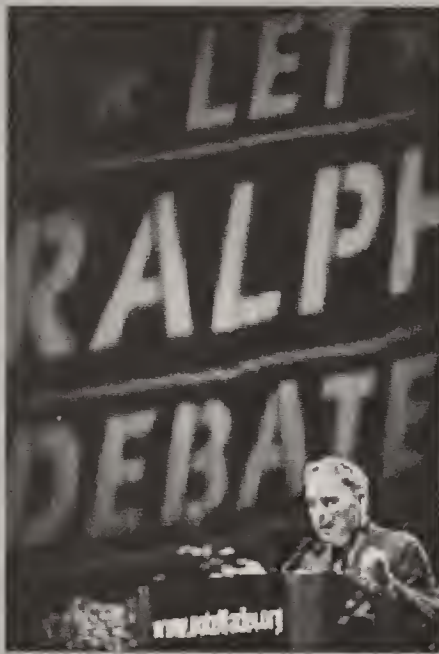
This year's election may be over, but the race for online campaigning is just beginning. For a man who claims to have invented the Internet, Al Gore's Web site www.algore2000.com is appropriately lavish, with all the nooks and crannies designed by his top tech aides. George W. Bush's homepage www.georgewbush.com also reflects his pre-election tone, which is one of simplicity and character. On the surface, Gore's site is much more attractive and in-depth, but can such comprehensiveness really help him stand apart? Early polls showed the public's inclination toward a solid, normal man like Bush and its disgust of Gore's Mr. Know-it-all attitude. Whoever the new president will be, (information not available at press time) these two candidates' venture online will surely spark a new age of campaigns relying more and more on the Internet.

Al Gore's Web Site certainly has the look of a president, tastefully done in true American colors. On top of the page is a scroll-down menu of 32 issues, ranging from Agricultural/Rural to Working Families. Each of these issues is supported by numerous colorful graphs, Gore's accomplishments in the area as Vice President, and finally an agenda for future action. Right below the issues are the pictures of four smiling people - Gore, his wife Tipper, running mate Joe

Lieberman, and his wife Hadassah. Click on any one and a popout window appears complete with that individual timeline of family and political history. This is where Gore tries desperately to prove he's not the robot the media painted him to be. His timeline features a snapshot of him leading his cow up the hill. Aw. . . In addition to the reach-out-to-the-people approach, Gore also uses other individualistic approaches. He has a separate site and thus, separate key issues for each state. For example, the Top Five Points of Massachusetts include expanding the economy, improving education, protecting families, providing health care, and moving people out of welfare. To emphasize these, he includes audio and video-clips of speeches from his New England visits. The issues are there in full display, but what really distinguishes the ex-VP's page from W's is his inclusion of extra features. For example, one can download free bumper stickers and join Gore's Instant MessageNet. This service is available to all AOL, MSN, and ICQ Instant Messaging users. Furthermore, his daughter Karenn leads Gorenets, a service appealing to younger voters. The Web site even has Gore-related crossword puzzles for children. And what's a Gore page without anti-Bush banners?

Compared to Gore's site, George W. Bush's web site looks shabby. Its black, purple, and yellows resemble the Minnesota Vikings more than a presidential candidate. The page

Nader Rallies at FleetCenter



BY MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II
NEWS EDITOR

I knew I was in the right place when I saw the hundreds of people pouring out of the North Station T stop. College student activists, punk rockers, socially concious middle-aged professionals, dreadlocked hippies and high school students like me, too young to vote, were among the twelve thousand people who showed up to support Ralph Nader at the October 8 rally in Boston's FleetCenter.

The grand scale of the rally and the florescent "Let Ralph Debate" designs flashing on the jumbotron above the crowd were decidedly uncharacteristic of the Green Party. Nader refuses to accept corporate money for his campaign, and this million-dollar rally was funded completely by independent donations, like my mom's ten dollar bill which I shoved into one of the cardboard boxes passed around.

The focus of the rally was Ralph Nader's exclusion from the approaching Tuesday debate between Gore and Bush at UMass/Boston. Speakers at the rally, including Howard Zinn, Michael Moore, and vice-presidential running mate Winona LaDuke, contested that limiting the debates

to Bush and Gore not only prevents Nader from reaching as wide an audience as the two major candidates; it also presents a narrow choice between the lesser of two evils who are too afraid to take a stand on controversial issues because they are puppets of parties backed by corporate money.

To people who are afraid that a vote for Nader is vote for Bush, speaker Howard Zinn gave historical perspective to Nader's effort. The historian of the people and author of *A People's History of the United States* said that Nader's campaign is part of a radical social movement towards a more fair society comparable to countless uprisings in American history. "They say Ralph Nader can't win. Ralph Nader can't win. Didn't everyone say we could not win the American Revolution?"

Michael Moore also appealed to those who were choosing a safer vote for Gore with this plea: that the only circumstance which can create progressive social change is when the people are not afraid to vote their conscience. The author of *Downsize This*, a book which challenges the current state of American democracy, offered another historical fact in support of third-party candidates: that every president who has been immortalized on Mount Rushmore was not a member of a major political party.

An election which excludes an important candidate is not a democratic election. This statement by Howard Zinn resonated through the crowd Sunday and inspired thousands to protest at the debate on Tuesday night. Protesters, who came from all over the country with the demand, "Let Ralph Debate!" joined an anti-death penalty march and swarmed upon the UMass/Boston campus. The protest was dominated not by angry anarchists, but by informed politically active students. As I joined the positive surge of the crowd, drumming, dancing, and chanting, I became part of a truly democratic movement.

is updated daily, unlike Gore's rate of one update per half-hour. This fact is shown in its simplicity and masses of empty space. The 31 issues he presents on the page are meager at best, supported by only random rhetoric and no statistics nor multimedia. His creativity maxes out at downloadable Bush logos and a desktop wallpaper. The only helpful features are the Event Calendar and an Archive of Ads. The technology is lackluster, too. For instance, none of the State Pages functions. The overdone baseball to politics metaphor scares off middle class families who find Bush's Big-sports, Big-Oil politics fulsome. Yet his weakness is precisely why he's even in this race.

His supporters are behind him *because* he makes mistakes like a normal human. Meanwhile, Gore's almost too perfect, causing people to doubt his truthfulness.

On paper and on the computer screen, Al Gore's issue-savvy and tech-focused campaign should have been everywhere but behind or tied with Bush's pleasant simplicity and silly Web site gaffes. But in the final stretch of this election, he was still neck-to-neck with his lesser contender. This begs the question -- do the American people care more about convincing numbers and fancy web sites or plain, simple character? Only time will tell.

Forum

Joseph Coffey VS Kaitlyn Jolly Over-The-Counter Death or Women's Right to Choose?

BY JOSEPH COFFEY, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Two thousand years ago, the Greek physician Hippocrates established the principle of protecting life before, as well as after, birth. As recently as 1948, the World Medical Association upheld this principle: *"I will maintain the utmost respect for Human Life ... from the time of conception, even under threat. I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity."*

Why is it that within fifty years of this declaration, abortion is now seen as a "right" to be claimed on demand and practiced under the protection of the law? The rates of surgical abortions are rising, drugs are being developed to kill those not yet born, fatal scientific experimentations on human "pre-embryos" are being hailed as "research," and the "harvesting" of the tissues and organs of aborted babies is being called "scientific work." The assault on the unborn is rapidly escalating.

Has conscience died? Why does law and society no longer protect and care for human life with respect based on natural law and morality instilled by a god of creation? The reason lies in the ideal that there is a new god: personal choice. Choice is what determines the actions of many people today instead of spiritual, moral or ethical influences.

An abortion drug is currently being produced and marketed. Its name seems suitably inhuman: RU-486. It destroys life in a woman's womb.

RU-486 is not a contraceptive. It is an anti-progesterone hormonal steroid discovered in the late 1970s by the French pharmaceutical company Roussel-Uclaf. It kills a developing baby after his or her heart has begun to beat by blocking progesterone, which is necessary to maintain a pregnancy.

Roussel-Uclaf developed this powerful chemical steroid with no knowledge of the long-term side effects on women and on infants who may survive the drug. Neither does this development address the ethical and social implications of killing unborn life with drugs.

This drug is currently being used in France up to the seventh week of pregnancy, and in Britain it will be used up to the ninth week. The whole procedure consists of taking three RU-486 tablets in the presence of a doctor, going home (where the mother may experience complications), and returning forty-eight hours later for the administration of prostaglandin. Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled that the drug could be used.

The FDA may have approved the drug, but in the past there have been problems. News of the first confirmed death relating to RU-486 came in April 1991. (There had been other unconfirmed reports of deaths, believed to be as a result of RU-486 use.) Other complications noted include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, fever and infection. The average duration of bleeding is ten days, but some women have bled for as long as forty days.

RU-486 may be one of the most potentially dangerous drugs to healthy women. It can react in the body to form a free radical, which can attack DNA with possible clinical results of fatal birth defects and maternal cancer.

Have we learned nothing from all this? Surely, at the very least the Department of Health should have required extensive long-term testing before licensing the drug, particularly in the light of other drug controversies.

Moral considerations are always the more important questions to evaluate, but also sometimes the most contentious. Wrong moral decisions are reflected in medicine, politics and society. The "pro-choice" generation thinks it has found a panacea, but as Professor Smith notes in *When Choice Becomes God*, "Perhaps no scientific development in our time has more potential for condemning our collective conscience than the new French-developed RU-486 abortion pill. What it achieves, of course, is nothing different from any other means of abortion: It terminates a pregnancy; it kills a newly conceived life. Yet what it potentially represents in the public mind is an outrageous statement about the legitimacy of over-the-counter death."

Joe Coffey is the flyweight champion of the Universal Wrestling Alliance, fighting as "The Kilted Wonder."

BY KAITLYN JOLLY, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



After more than a decade of being caught in anti-abortion red tape, RU-486 (a.k.a. Mifepristone and Mifeprex) was finally approved by the FDA on September 29. Engineered by French scientists at Roussel-Uclaf, the drug was conceived and made available in Europe in 1988.

RU-486 is what is known as an "antiprogesterone," a drug that stops the production of progesterone, a female hormone essential in carrying a pregnancy. This causes the uterus to

contract and the uterine lining to shed along with the embryo with the symptoms of a very heavy period. The drug has proved to be 96.5 percent effective in terminating pregnancies within the first nine weeks of gestation.

With the approval of RU-486 comes a myriad of imminent benefits for women considering pregnancy termination. Until now, having an abortion has been a fairly public and extremely invasive decision. Pushing through picket lines to enter a clinic only to be patted down and put through a metal detector before surgery is hardly comforting; these procedures by no means ease the mind of a woman who is already in personal turmoil. The use of RU-486 replaces the harsh clinic environment with the comfort of a private, non-surgical choice.

The issue of accessibility also arises. At present, only five percent of family practice physicians perform surgical abortions, but according to a survey done by the Kaiser Family Foundation, thirty-one percent of family practice doctors and gynecologists, who do not currently perform abortions, would be able to prescribe the drug and provide follow-up care once the drug is approved. However, all of this depends on Congress and whether or not they will place limitations on the distribution and use of the drug. Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) said it best at a press conference held after the FDA announced its approval of the drug: "[The FDA's approval] will finally make the House take off their white coats and stop practicing medicine without a license."

Those who oppose the drug are mostly conservative white Republican males, and if George W. Bush wins the election, he will do just what Daddy did during his run: will prohibit the use of the drug in the United States. Bush fears that the use of RU-486 will inflate the number of women having abortions. However, a study conducted by the Center for Disease Control clearly shows that the abortion rate has not increased in the twelve years RU-486 has been available in Europe; in fact, it has gone down.

The future of RU-486 is uncertain, especially with the pending election. We live in an age when the "Male Pill" and over-the-counter birth control are just around the corner, an age far beyond that of Margaret Sanger and Roe vs. Wade. RU-486 is a scientific advancement that should be assessed with the feminine majority in mind. The drug was referred to as "the moral property of women" by the French minister of health, around the time of the drug's conception in 1988. The women of this country surely do not want a group of unqualified, middle aged men telling them what to do with their bodies. This controversy surrounding RU-486 is not about abortion, nor is it about feminism. It is about the public's right to a highly beneficial drug that could revolutionize a particular area of health care.

Kaitlyn Jolly is a sexy, JP-aspiring liberal who is also the world's foremost expert on snail copulation. Her past acting experiences include the role of "Roller Girl" in the film Boogie Nights. She was red carded in both of her last two JP soccer games. And she, like everyone else, loves the new logos!

Forum Question

RU-486 is a drug that terminates a pregnancy during the first trimester when several doses are taken. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved the pill for use in the United States. Six students representing a cross-section of Latin School the student body gave their opinions regarding the pill's approval.



"I don't agree with it because I think it would be a very simple way out of pregnancy."
—Abner Bonilla, I

"I would agree because it makes abortions safer, and women are going to have abortions anyway."
—Becca Bor, II



"I don't like it because I think it will encourage too many women to have abortions."
—Lindi Tulloch, III

"It's a good idea because women won't get criticized as much for having abortions, because people won't realize that they're having them done."
—Robson Bouquet, IV



"I would agree with it. Some girls need abortions."
—Emmanuel Kakulu, V

"I don't agree with it because I don't like abortion anyway."
—Gabrielle Chalifoux, VI



Electioneering: Candidates Fight For Votes

By Lauren Hughes, I
Contributing Writer

Charisma and affability are good qualities to look for in a friend, but should these be decisive factors in your vote for president? In this presidential race, you can either choose to vote for a candidate that is intelligent and knowledgeable (but does not have too many people skills) or a candidate that is affable and very good with people (but is not always as knowledgeable as one might like). In other words, your choice is between Al Gore and George W. Bush, respectively.

Al Gore has been compared to a robot. While giving public speeches, he is stiff and shows little to no expression. Only during the first presidential debate on October 3 did Gore loosen up and let his feelings show, by letting out loud sighs and snickering frequently while his opponent, George W. Bush, spoke. Even though this is usually considered rude, some will argue that at least he showed some emotion.

The Vice President also has the tendency to throw around facts and even some hyperbole, such as "the poor unfortunate girl who had to stand during her science class" (it was later confirmed that the girl had to stand in her science class for only one day; the school had been unpacking new furniture). It's almost as though he is trying to prove that he is a wise guy. "Look at me America, I invented the Internet; I invented pants for that matter! I'm that much smarter than 'Dubya.'"

Despite his stiff exterior, Al Gore is very knowledgeable on the issues. This may be due in part to the fact that he has already spent close to eight years in the White House. He sticks to the issues during speeches,

discussing how he will reform education and cut taxes for working-class Americans. Keeping to the typical Democratic agenda has been working in his favor. He has also incorporated trying to outsmart his opponent, which, in all things considered, does not seem to be all too difficult.

On the other hand, Republican candidate George W. Bush works well in crowds. He is very amiable and has a winning smile. Unfortunately, a winning smile does not guarantee the Presidency. On issues such as self-defense he seems uncertain and uninformed; when asked about American involvement in the Balkans, he answered that he believes Russia should have gotten involved. Yes, Governor Bush, maybe Russia should have gotten involved. If Russia shared our point of view and policy, then maybe they would have. His entire campaign seems as if it is scripted and he is merely an actor or a figurehead reading off cue cards. He may in fact be an intelligent man, but whether or not his legacy as governor will reflect that is something debatable. The education and health care systems in Texas leave much to be desired, with Texas currently ranking among the lowest states in each of the two issues. It's hard to entrust the education and health of a nation to a man who cannot improve these issues in his own state.

Despite the author's humble opinion on these men, both candidates have been selected by their parties to represent their own party policies, and possibly the policies of the future of the United States. The Presidency is a position which requires brains, strong policies and diplomacy. We will see on November 7, election day, whether the American people want an intelligent president or one that will be their "good buddy."

Blame Government Silence Not Media Violence

By David Paquet-Whall, I
Assistant Graphic Arts Editor

There is obviously a fair amount of violence depicted in the media, whether it is on television, in movies, or in video games. The question that arises, however, is whether or not violence in the media has any effect on the reality of violence in our society. As a result of the tragedies at Columbine and various other schools, the public has been quick to assume that the media has provoked these vicious and brutal attacks. My opinion is that the media is not the cause of violence in our society.

A recent study by the Center for Media and Public Affairs (CMPA) shows that violent programming has not only been on the rise in both television and film, but that it is also rated as being appropriate for teenagers. This study points out that an average American viewer witnesses a scene of violence (i.e. murder, rape, kidnapping or assault) on TV every four minutes. "It's remarkable the degree to which violence in entertainment is presented as a relatively harmless, necessary, and even laudable way of solving problems," said CMPA President Bob Litcher smugly. The most grievous offender of Litcher's morals is CBS, the most watched television network last year. That's right! The home of "Touched by an Angel," "The Cosby Show," "Candid Camera," and "Kids Say the Darndest Things" is the most violent network on television. The graphic violence as seen in shows like "Walker: Texas Ranger," being the most violent show on television (it shows an act of violence every ten seconds), is enough to label CBS thusly. Give me a break! This study is obviously too broad; it does not take into account the program's context.

The opponents to media violence also point out movies, like "Basketball Diaries," "The Matrix," and "Natural Born Killers," as negative influences on children and provocations of violence. This is an unfair criticism of the movie industry. First of all, no parents should allow their child to see movies beyond the scope of the child's intellect and maturity. Parents become upset with violence in the media because they rely on TV as a babysitter; they are especially upset when the TV does not properly raise their children for them.

One must also take into account the rise in violent video games. There are some that would like to use "Doom" as a scapegoat for events like Columbine. This again is more of a fault of society, parents included, rather than the fault of video game manufacturers. Any child that cannot tell the difference between a video game, in which pig-men are shot at with automatic plasma rays, from the real world, has some deep-seated psychological problems.

There is also a false belief that the United States is the only country in the Western world that is open to violence in the media. People use the argument that Europe is open to sexuality and closes the door on violence in the media, whereas the United States does the opposite. This is not true; in actuality European media is open to violence as well as sexuality in the media. I could go to England and watch someone get decapitated on "Highlander," yet for American audiences the gory scene is edited; it is doubly true that heads won't roll on the USA network.

Also, European video game programmers tend to have a more difficult time getting their games released in the United States than in Europe. The difference is that while Europe is open to violence in the media, it is stricter than the U.S. when it comes to real violence. Guns are relatively non-existent in many European countries, in which most policemen do not carry firearms. Meanwhile in the U.S., Congress cannot even pass a law that extends background checks of sales at gun-shows beyond the current 24 hours. Instead, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has experienced an incredible boom in members over the last few years. In fact, there are now about 15 million members of the NRA, and more than 20 million people who are related to it.

The United States wants to take away the fake guns, but seems quite willing to keep the real ones; that's the flaw. Violence is part of the entertainment industry, whether people like it or not. Media, however, should not be blamed for violence in our society.

Gun Control Debate Triggers Controversy

By Matthew Erlich, I
Assistant Sports Editor

"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to bear arms, shall not be infringed." Those are the exact words of our forefathers written in the Second Amendment. Since that time people have debated its exact meaning. Many people say that it assures the right to bear arms for all citizens, while others believe that it assures this only to a militia. In recent years, gun control has become an extremely heated debate. With incidents like the Columbine massacre in mind, people have been crying out for gun control laws. With groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) standing in the way, this is an issue that will not die soon.

Thomas Cooley in his interpretation of the Second Amendment said, "The meaning of this provision undoubtedly is that the people, from whom the militia must be taken, shall have the right to keep and bear arms, and they need no permission or regulation of law for the purpose." In simple terms, he is saying that anybody may potentially be a militia member so even if the right to bear arms is guaranteed only to militia members, it still applies to everyone. However, a militia is defined by the Supreme Court as "a body of citizens enrolled for military discipline." Certainly this does not apply to every private citizen.

The issue of the right to bear arms outside of the militia, however, is not addressed. In the case of Lewis vs. United States, the Supreme Court ruled that "the Second Amendment guarantees no right to keep and bear firearms that do not have some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia." This does not state that guns are illegal for citizens to own, but this does give the government the right to create laws restricting or even outlawing guns for citizens.

This brings up the question of whether or not the government should pass more laws on guns. Many people believe that the government has no right to enact laws on guns. Author Roger Taylor, said, "We are not Nazi Germany nor the USSR, under the heel of a dictator." This is a rather extreme statement. It is not necessarily the autocratic government who enacts gun control laws. Head of the NRA, Charleton Heston, said, "During the past eight years, President Clinton has fought hard for every kind of firearm restriction imaginable. Yet at the same time he has, as a matter of policy, refused to vigorously enforce federal gun laws already on the books." His point is well taken; certainly current gun laws should be better enforced. Regardless, these laws do need supplements.

Anti-gun law advocates claim two basic purposes for gun ownership: sporting and protection. Pistols are rarely used for sporting. Perhaps they are used sometimes in competitions but never for hunting. The vast majority of pistol owners own them for protection. The reality is, pistols do not offer the protection and peace of mind people believe they provide. A gun in a person's home is forty-three times more likely to be used against the owner and his family than it is to be used against a burglar. This is no small number.

In 1997 the United Kingdom chose to outlaw pistols, and eight years earlier had outlawed semi-automatic rifles. Since those two events, gun-related violence has dropped remarkably. The U.K. has not outlawed rifles or shotguns, rather, they have placed very stringent restrictions on them. These restrictions include substantial background checks, records of how many guns are bought, and if the guns are not frequently used in competitions or for hunting, the license can be revoked. Rifles and shotguns are not as dangerous as pistols. They can fatally do the same thing, but the size of pistols is what makes them dangerous. Someone walking down the street with a rifle will not be noticed. On the other hand, people can easily walk down the street with a concealed pistol.

While there are legitimate arguments why pistols should not be entirely banned, they certainly need further laws. The fact is that the majority of gun owners are law-abiding citizens. However, there are gun owners who are not lawful citizens. It is a necessity to keep guns out of the hands of these people. That is the purpose of background checks.

The incident that occurred at Columbine has set off a great deal of controversy. People have blamed TV, Hollywood, the Internet, music, and also lack of gun control. This incident was a case of two very troubled teenagers. It is pointless to blame it on all of these things. Yet these kids *did* have guns; guns that they should not have had. It is clear that something must be done, whether it is entirely outlawing guns or creating tougher restrictions.

Strike Averted as Cooler Heads Prevail

BY REBECCA ADAMS, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Until October 11, the Boston Teachers' Union (BTU) had been preparing for a strike. For many weeks teachers and administrators had been meeting to come to an agreement over the teachers' contracts. Some of the major issues that concerned the teachers were class size, salary and seniority.

Firstly, the BTU believed that class sizes were too large and that it was near impossible to have one-on-one time with students. Second, they wanted a salary increase of fifteen percent over the next three years. The final issue was seniority, which guaranteed that the majority of veteran teachers would get preference over first year teachers for a vacant job they applied for.

These were among the topics discussed at a community forum on October 2 at Roxbury Community College. An estimate of 150 teachers, administrators, and concerned parents attended. Both Boston Teachers' Union President Edward Doherty

and School Superintendent Thomas Payzant were present at the forum. After the speakers presented their standpoints, audience members were given one index card on which they could write questions. People then formed a line behind the microphone and were allowed to ask questions directed at Doherty and Payzant.

An agreement was ratified at a BTU meeting on October 11. Teachers settled the contract with a twelve percent raise over three years, which was just a little bit lower than what they had been vying for. The final agreement protects first year teachers, by not allowing teachers the right to bump them out of their jobs. It protects senior teachers too, by keeping the preference for senior teachers over first year teachers for vacant jobs. The teachers and administrators were all very happy with the settlement, although there were a few that were still dissatisfied. Some believed that the contract did not answer all of the teachers' demands. "This was a contract that needed to have significant changes . . . it didn't go far enough," said Sam Tyler of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau to the

Boston Globe.

I believe that all of this is great, but of course there is always a flip side to everything. The Boston Teachers' Union was correct in standing up for what it believed in, but it was willing to go too far. Not only was it willing to illegally strike, and thus incur large fines, but it was also willing to disrupt the education of students and leave parents in an awkward situation. 64,000 Boston school children would have had no place to go during the period of the strike. Who knows how long they would have held a strike? In the 1970s, the BTU had held a strike that had lasted for as long as two weeks.

Although to some students a strike would have meant hitting the snooze button, it would not have been good timing with college applications and standardized tests looming around the corner. The days before the impending strike teachers had been assigning a few days of extra work for students "to do in the event of a strike." Imagine if there had been a strike and it had lasted longer than two days. The missed classes and backlog of work would have disrupted our education.

People may argue that the strike did not happen in the end and therefore the BTU did not hurt students. This is not true; the BTU did have an influence on students. Beforehand, some teachers had refused to offer extra tutoring after school or to help students run extracurricular activities. Some teachers even refused to write recommendations for seniors applying for college.

"I think that [the issues about the contract] were ridiculous because no one goes into teaching for the money. It also upset me because if they had gone on strike it would have really hurt the seniors in terms of college recommendations and help with essays," said Kevin Daniels, a BLS senior.

I am glad that a strike did not happen, but I am not happy about the way the BTU and BPS both stubbornly did not resolve the strike until the very last moment. The behavior of both sides showed that they were willing to do anything to meet their own terms, even interfering with the education of children.

New Sox Stadium Foul Play for Residents

BY JOSHUA SPEICHER, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

These days, high-tech, ultra luxurious, and ready-to-rumble stadiums seem to be the trend. New technology has revolutionized the American way of life over the last few decades. So it is not surprising that baseball, America's favorite pastime, has also been affected.

Gigantic mega scoreboards, five star restaurants, mobile roofs — you name it — it's part of a day at the ballpark. It seems like everyone is scrambling to buy brand new, flashy, expensive stadiums. But what about Boston? Why aren't the good 'ol Red Sox emptying their piggybanks for a brand new Fenway? Well, it isn't for a lack of trying that the Olde Town Team isn't basking in the glory of its own high tech baseball cathedral. Their proposed plan for a new ballpark has been met with heavy opposition from the Fenway community and organizations such as Citizens Against Stadium Subsidies, Save Fenway Park, and the Fenway Community Development Corporation. This resistance is all for good reason.

There are several thorny issues

that stand in the way of the new proposal. The new ballpark, if built according to the proposed plan, would force over thirty businesses out of their current sites. The Red Sox are asking the government to exercise its power of "eminent domain," or authority for



land taking, to move the businesses out. The power of "eminent domain" is supposed to be exercised for the benefit of the general public. The Red Sox, however, are asking the government to use this power to get them land for a new ballpark — a decidedly private

purpose. The team is asking the government to go up to residents and businesses around Fenway and to tell them, "The Red Sox are building a stadium here, so we're asking you to move out."

To this writer, this is an outrageous and gross abuse of government power. Kicking people out of their homes and businesses for the Red Sox is definitely not a public purpose. "I don't think the government has any role in doing that. I think it's up to the Red Sox to work out a deal with their neighbors to come up with something. [It's] not up to the government to use its powers to do that," said Michael Ross, a City Council representative for the Fenway community.

Congestion and traffic concerns are also raised by opponents as potential problems with the stadium proposal. The new, larger

park and the 3,000-car garage (proposed in conjunction with the new stadium) would create more traffic, thus further crowding the already congested Fenway area. "The Fenway is a very congested area as it is. To build it much bigger, I think you'll have a problem on your hands," said Councilor Ross. Imagine trying to get out of one of the two exits of the new 3,000-car garage after a game!

While there is just not enough room for a ballpark of the magnitude called for in the current plan, several potentially feasible alternative plans exist. Alternate locations in Somerville, Revere, East Boston and the South Boston waterfront have all been suggested. To date, the Red Sox have refused to consider any alternate sites. Surely, it's time that they started considering other options.

The proposed Fenway stadium uses too much public funding for too private a purpose. It forces many local businesses off their land, and a park of the size proposed, along with the 3,000-car garage, would overcrowd the already congested Fenway area. The \$665 million cost of the new stadium is likely to make it the most expensive stadium ever built. The current proposal just won't work.

Napster: Paranoia or Piracy?

BY STEPHEN BOYLE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since the dawn of time, children have been taught that sharing is a good thing. We learn in kindergarten that we should share whatever we have with others. Shawn Fanning, the creator of Napster, is also an advocate of sharing. Fanning, however, believes in sharing other people's things, which has angered quite a few people.

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past year, you probably know that Napster is a program used to share MP3 files with millions of other Internet users. Although it started out small, as something used by a few college roommates, Napster has spread like wildfire. According to a Napster.com press release, Napster has grown at the incredible rate of one million new users each week. What you may not know is that the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is suing Napster for breach of copyright. The RIAA, which oversees the

music industry, has a copyright on the distribution of all music. Thus, without explicit authorization from the RIAA, one cannot legally disseminate any form of music.

But why does this all really matter? The reason is that the RIAA has been receiving complaints that everyone in the music industry is suffering because of Napster, and are therefore suing for copyright infringement. Although Napster seems to be taking money out of the music industry, CD sales have actually increased during the "Napster Era" by \$500 million, according to *Time magazine*. Also, certain other parts of the market are thriving as well. For example, if it had not been for Napster, there would be no MP3-player market. MP3 players were largely made for Napster users, so that the users could listen to what they downloaded whenever they wanted. Napster is responsible for the majority of all MP3 downloads, and therefore it is also responsible for the majority of all sales of MP3 players and accessories.

So if the RIAA is profiting through

MP3 sales, who is really upset? The artists and the labels themselves are whining that they do not get enough money because people are not buying albums, but are rather downloading songs. These are the same artists who charge ridiculous prices for CDs, which are cheaper and easier to produce than cassettes. Several artists, such as Metallica and Dr. Dre, have taken firm stands against Napster and believe that all MP3 trading should be banned. The artists even went so far as to demand permanently booting anyone who downloaded a Metallica song or Dr. Dre song off of Napster; approximately one million people were banned from Napster by Dr. Dre and Metallica. At the same time, there are just as many artists who strongly support Napster, such as Limp Bizkit and Chuck D of Public Enemy.

Piracy is not a new thing in the music business. Chuck D recalled that when cassette recorders first appeared on the market, the RIAA was equally worried that it would have a negative effect on the market. Napster

has, in essence, become not only the scapegoat for all Internet piracy of music, but for the piracy of music in general. There are many places online where entire albums can be downloaded months before their release. However, since Napster has become so accessible, it has also had to carry the burden for all other forms of piracy, such as bootlegging.

What people don't recognize is the good side of Napster — how it allows for the trading of legal (non-licensed) music, and how it allows users to listen to new artists who may otherwise not gain popular recognition. The majority of the complaints are coming from greedy musicians and executives who want all the money they can get a hold of, and don't realize that Napster is, essentially, the radio of the 21st century. The majority of the people who use Napster use it lawfully, with no intent of making any artist file for bankruptcy.

Editorial Page

Is This Leadership?

BY STEPHEN DEWEY, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

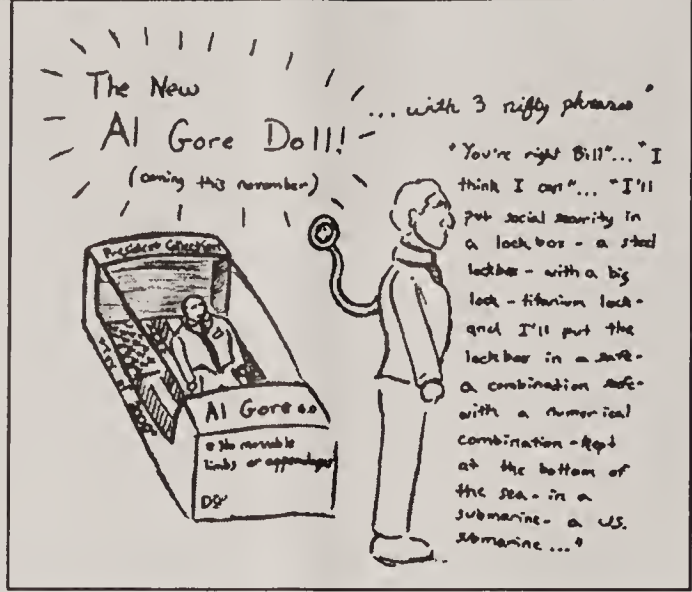
When the MCAS scores came out last year, they put our school at the very top of the Massachusetts public school system. Although the results were not that much of a surprise to myself or many other people, the administration brought our outstanding scores up in speeches and interviews throughout the following year (even at the sports banquet!). What concerned me most about this was that the administration used the MCAS scores to try to position us as leaders in public education. What this showed me, however, was that we still have a long way to go if we really want to be leaders. It also demonstrated either an ignorance of the intense, diverse points of view regarding the MCAS, or a desire to side with the test because it benefited us and strengthened our "leadership role" claim. If it were ignorance, it would have been better if they had kept their mouths shut, because now the school looks foolish. I doubt, however, that no member of the administration read any of the articles against the MCAS in the Globe, Herald, or Phoenix. Therefore, I must unhappily conclude that they did actually want to promote the MCAS and our scores for the latter reason. I say "unhappily," because in doing so we have done the opposite of leading; we have simply promoted the same old system.

MCAS stands for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, but it is not very comprehensive. *Comprehensive*, in this case, means testing students on their knowledge of English, math, history, and science and technology in ONE TEST. Besides what is learned in that one test, the so-called Comprehensive Assessment System shows nothing in all the areas tested about the insight, creativity, effort, limitations, or even talent of a student. The test has been proven to be harmful to the educational process, it takes quite a long time to complete, forces teachers to "teach-to-the-test," demoralizes students who do not think they stand a chance of passing it, and may even force a school to rearrange the curriculum. Class III was supposed to take a Computer course this year, which is not only fun, but also painfully necessary for most of us. Thanks to the MCAS, we are taking World History, and I still know next to nothing about computers. With all due respect to World History, pause for a moment and reflect on which class is actually more important in the world today.

Imagine you are running Boston Latin. The school has already proven in numerous ways that it does not need to be watched over by the state anymore. It is also located in an area with lots of opportunities for advanced, interactive learning through partnerships with other institutions. The school has plenty of cash and connections, including a nice new "West Wing", and a "Dining Hall", too. You are all set to start doing what you do best for yet another school year, and are even thinking of letting the students learn something both interesting and challenging for a change: internships at Childrens Hospital? Studio time at Mass Art? advanced courses at Simmons next door? All of a sudden the MCAS test comes along. The Massachusetts state government tells you that your students must take the state's courses and pass the state's test, or else they will fail for the year. This makes you angry because you know your students can pass the test. In order to do so, however, they would have to take the corresponding classes in the corresponding years, and there go all your plans for a diverse, customized school setup, one that would have taught BLS students so much more. The question now is, "What do you do?"

The administration has two choices. They either support the MCAS, or they do not. By not supporting the MCAS, I do not mean boycotting it. Boycotting the MCAS is something BLS simply cannot do; we need state funding so badly. The state, however, could cut funding if we boycotted the test. By not supporting this test, the administration will be sending a strong, clear message of their discontent to the students, families, congressmen, media, alumni, and school system. BLS' support carries a remarkable amount of weight in this matter, simply because we are first in the MCAS. The only reason a school would rebel against a system that ranks it No.1 would be that the system was truly flawed. And trust me, the media would be quick to respond. If we are actually serious about leading, here is our chance.

The administration ought to set an example for the students of this school by showing us what leadership really is. In this situation it would be taking a stand against something we know is wrong and trying to change it. "Leadership" shouldn't be just a buzz-word; it should be a mentality.



BY DAVID PAQUET- WHALL, I
ASSISTANT GRAPHIC ARTS EDITOR

Yes, This Is Leadership

BY THOMAS FINNERAN
SPECIAL TO THE ARGO

Dear Students and Faculty:

As an alumnus, a father, and a state representative, I appreciate this opportunity to participate in the Boston Latin School dialogue about the statewide MCAS standard. I recently had a discussion with sophomore Stephen Dewey, who volunteers at my office after school, about the MCAS and his Argo article entitled "Is this leadership?" After our healthy discussion, Stephen asked me to write a response to his argument that reflects my historical and public policy perspectives.

The Boston Latin School administration is to be commended for its pride in the students' performance on the MCAS examination. It is a pride based upon substantive achievement and therefore it does not seem to be incongruous or boastful.

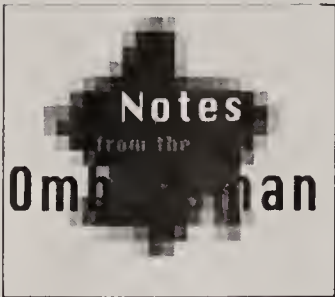
Steve's complaint that the school's pride in the students' accomplishments is "the opposite of leading — we were promoting the same old system" misses the fundamental point of the 1993 Education Reform Act of which the MCAS exams are an essential element.

The Act provided billions of dollars in additional education funding and, in return, it insisted on certain minimum levels of academic comprehension as graduation requirements. MCAS is the widely accepted standard measurement for a student's level of comprehension. While the MCAS may not be a completely perfect tool (as if there is such a thing in scholastic preparation), its diagnostic value and its strong message of expectation and accountability make it vastly superior to the subjective evaluations which gave us a generation or more of high school graduates who were hobbled by a system which placed more value on self-esteem than on effort and achievement.

The fact that BLS had never surrendered to the mediocrity that was so characteristic of other schools is admirable. While effort and achievement might seem to be everyday expectations to BLS students, they are crucial elements of the educational experience we hope to provide to all students in Massachusetts. The MCAS standard will help us to achieve that goal and therefore the BLS students' performance on MCAS provides a model example for all of Massachusetts.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas M.Finneran,
Speaker of the House

Do you have a voice
that needs to be heard?
Write a Letter to the
Editor. Please send
your letters to
bls_argo@learntoquestion.com



DIEGO McCAFFERTY
OMBUDSMAN

At the end of last summer, when I was told by Andrew Barr, one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief, that he wanted me to be the Argo's Ombudsman, I was thrilled.

After both spelling and defining that word, I was even more thrilled. At last I would be able to stick it to the Boston Latin School system, which had done wrong to me and my fellow students for so many years. Finally, the hypocrisy and indignity that I had suffered through for so long would be addressed by a scribe talented and proficient enough to tell it like it is, and to get things changed.

At the end of last week, when I was informed by the aforementioned Co-Editor-in-Chief that I could only refer to problems with the Argo and not with Latin School itself, I was more than just a little disappointed. However, being the determined professional that I am (ha!), I stoically set out to accomplish my assignment. And so I asked the denizens of the murky depths of Latin School what their complaints were about this prestigious (ha ha!) newspaper of ours.

Their predictable responses were unified in theme: Who cares?

You want a complaint? How's this: Not one non-staff member of this entire school could care less about the Argo. And why should they? The Argo is a publication produced by a group of over-achievers looking to pad their already impressive college transcripts. If plodding through the teen angst via contorted grammar and broken word structure that is the Latin School *Register* is not taxing enough on the mind of a fresh-faced sixie, then skimming through the waste of space that is our fine periodical will be. The people who write these articles are the same people who take the National Latin Exam. Not that this is something to be ashamed of, but ask yourself this: If you are a Joe Alpha-Student who is struggling to get by tenth grade, have both teachers and parents constantly on your case, and are being constantly reminded, whether by means of class rank or the straight-up competitive nature that Latin breeds in its students from early on, that you are "not as good as everyone else," how much do you care about a quarter-page expose on the benefits of an eighth period?

The articles that are not mind-numbing in their vapidness and uselessness are all hashed stories, hand-picked by the faculty administration. A junior, who wished to remain nameless, says, "It's incredibly filtered. What in the Argo has ever been different from exactly what the administration wants us to hear?" I'm inclined to agree. It's a rarity to find a hard-hitting, controversial, counter-public-belief story (although I have to admit that the entire issue devoted to the burning question "Who's better: *NSYNC or the Backstreet Boys?" really made me think). How much of this issue will be devoted to the staggering number of Latin School drop-outs, or the growing tensions between teachers and administration, or even why SO many students are simply miserable? None. This is because if you already fit the mold of what Latin wants you to be, then you don't need these questions answered. Instead we are privy to yet another commentary on how we aced the MCAS (Woo! We're No. 1!) and how, if the Latin School education was good enough for Emerson one hundred fifty years ago, well, gosh darn it, it should be good enough for us. *Sumus primi ad nauseum.*

I refuse to conform to what Latin perceives as the model student. I refuse to limit myself to the eighteen pages of inaccuracies and misinformation that is the Argo. So if you have a problem and you need a voice, write to me at ombudsman@blsargo.org.

Help make the Argo better, because my time is a terrible thing to waste.

As Ombudsman, it will be Diego's job to identify instances of poor journalism found in the Argo. For those of our readers (and, possibly, ombudspeople) who are unfamiliar with the exact rules of journalism, the Argo will now briefly summarize them.

Rule No. 1: Never make personal attacks. For an example of exactly what a personal attack is, please view paragraph three of the above article.

Rule No. 2: Avoid colloquialisms. Colloquialisms are familiar phrases such as "gosh darn it" (paragraph four last line) and the many "ha!"s found throughout the Ombudsman's report.

Rule No. 3: Avoid fabrications such as "hand-picked by the administration" (The administration has no say in the paper's content.) Also, the Argo is twenty pages long, not eighteen.

The Argo staff looks forward to more "hard-hitting, controversial" commentary from Diego in the future. We hope to prosper from such honest (and hopefully correct) criticism.

Arts and Entertainment

Arts Spotlight



Jacob Bor

By Allison Jolly, I
Contributing Writer

Boy gets saxophone. Saxophone collects dust. Boy gets bored, curious and begins to play. Boy shows natural talent Boy becomes musical genius — all before the age of twelve. This is the story of one of the most talented musicians at BLS, Jacob Bor.

At the first sign of his inherent talent, his parents started him with piano lessons. He came to BLS and jumped right into the band program on the sax, ardently taking advantage of any instruction he could get and any excuse to play music in the middle of the day. He began playing with the BLS Jazz Band as a principal alto sax in ninth grade. Always up for a musical challenge, he picked up trombone for a year in concert band. Later that year, he took pride in getting kicked out of band: Along with co-conspirator Tobin McKenna, he orchestrated the insertion of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” at measure thirty-four of Brahms’ First Symphony in pure Marx Brothers fashion. Having been reinstated this year, Jacob lends his talent to Senior Band playing soprano saxophone. Anyone who has ventured into the new wing has probably

“He orchestrated the insertion of ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’ at measure 34 of Brahms’ First

heard him pounding away on the piano in between classes. Jacob’s passion for music is breathtaking.

We missed his chops for the better part of last year during his stay in New York for the City Term program, but the world did not go without hearing Jake’s music. He had a brief but successful gig in the bowels of Grand Central Station.

And this is what you need to know about Jake: He can be in Symphony Hall, waiting in a train station, or jamming with his boys, and he’ll always have the same level of comfort and pride in his music. He knows his strengths and few weaknesses, and never holds himself back from exhibiting his talent or learning from the way others play. His ability to hold his own and continue to develop his sound is his passport to sitting in with any musician, famous or unrecognized, dead or alive.

This brings us to one of Jacob’s career high points, playing with the late Latin jazz legend Tito Puente with the All City Jazz Band. Jacob gets the same ethereal feeling playing with renowned musicians as he does with a regular Joe (or Toby, or Matt, or Lev). Jacob could not make a person feel more at ease. He has the gift of creating a safe and comfortable environment for anyone to explore the depths of his own musicality.

Jacob’s talent is only exceeded by his good looks (I should know, I dated him). In his spare time, he is a hunky soccer player and a math geek. This brown-haired Jewish boy has also had a stint on the BLS stage as Puritan minister Reverend Hale in “The Crucible,” an experience that proved memorable and fantastic for him.

Jacob’s versatility as a performer is a great part of his overall charm. There are so many paths open to such an intelligent and talented person that one cannot help but wonder what he will do with the rest of his life. Ask him, and he will say that he doesn’t know. The one thing that is concrete about Jacob’s future (besides success) is his continual love for music.

Arts in the New Wing

By Katarina Yee, II
Assistant Copy Editor

Already a bit distressed on account of the fact that school had begun, many BLS students were puzzled on September 6, when they studied their schedules and wondered if the fourth and fifth floors really existed. Elatedly, they soon found out that they did not have to crawl up five flights of stairs to get from English in the G-rooms to Art in the 500s. The 400s and 500s are actually located in the new wing, where, in addition to classrooms and offices, the arts are finally being recognized as an asset for a complete education at Boston Latin School.

The Drama program has undoubtedly struggled to be established as a significant part of the Latin School curriculum. In the past, students rehearsed anywhere they could, but primarily in the classroom of drama teacher, Ms. Teasdale, in 026. Now, with the new wing built, the Drama Club (headed up by Jon Gass, Jr., I; Kaitlyn Jolly, I; Allison Jolly, I; and Adam Finelli, II) has Ms. Teasdale’s bright new room in 423 and also the Black Box Theatre. The Black Box Theatre is located on the second floor of the new wing. Its features include a non-proscenium stage and a flexible audience that can be arranged in whichever position is convenient for those involved with the production. Ms. Teasdale hopes that it will be painted black. “When it’s all black, it will create a more intimate atmosphere for the audience and performance,” she states. Music at BLS has benefited from the new wing as well. For the instrumentally inclined scholars, there is a new band room, two ensemble rooms, a string room, a string practice room and two additional multipurpose rooms. The band room has a tiered setup for better contact between the teacher and the students, and a high ceiling with acoustical tiling for better sound. “We used to rehearse in the auditorium, which echoed and was hard to practice in,” states the head of the music department, Mr. Pitts. Senior Concert Band member Corina Wilshire, II adds, “Last year, there wasn’t enough space for the individual sections to work solely amongst themselves. But now there is



much more room so we can practice in smaller groups.”

The choral groups are not only enjoying the Black Box Theatre as well, but also the new choral room. Similar to the band room, the risers are built in and the ceiling is high. Music instructor Ms. Wong-Ho and her students are certainly excited about the new room. “They love the space, the acoustics and seeing how it is supposed to be laid out,” she says. In addition to the visual and acoustical features, the new choral room is much bigger than Ms. Wong-Ho’s former classroom in the basement. Consequently, the grand piano, a gift from the Boston Latin School Association, was taken out of storage, and is in use this year. She hopes that with the expansion of space, an increase of interested choral members, especially among males, will surface.

When veteran art teacher Ms. Craddock first arrived at BLS, the visual arts program was one classroom on the second floor. Soon it will be virtually the entire third floor of the new wing. Facilities will include a general art room, a 2-Dimensional Art room, a Sculpting studio, a Ceramics room and a Graphics/Photography studio, all brightly lit. From the outside, the building may seem finished, but on the inside, there is still some work left to do. The Graphics/Photography room is being used as a general art room as the dark room is still under construction. Also, the Schwabell Center’s current home is in the Sculpting and Ceramics studios. Though the visual art rooms are not yet complete, BLS artists are thrilled about what to expect.

There is no question that the arts are flourishing at Latin School. Teachers agree that coming together in the new wing will strengthen the arts. “It is wonderful that all of the teachers are able to collaborate. The drama individuals need to work with the art and music people, and vice versa,” Ms. Craddock remarks. “The new facilities show that BLS has respect for what we do that they’re taking the arts more seriously. And with the extra space, it inspires us to fill it up,” expresses Ms. Teasdale. The new wing will surely be a primary factor in the growth of the BLS arts for years to come.



Private Eyes

By Nicole Hogarty, I
Contributing Writer

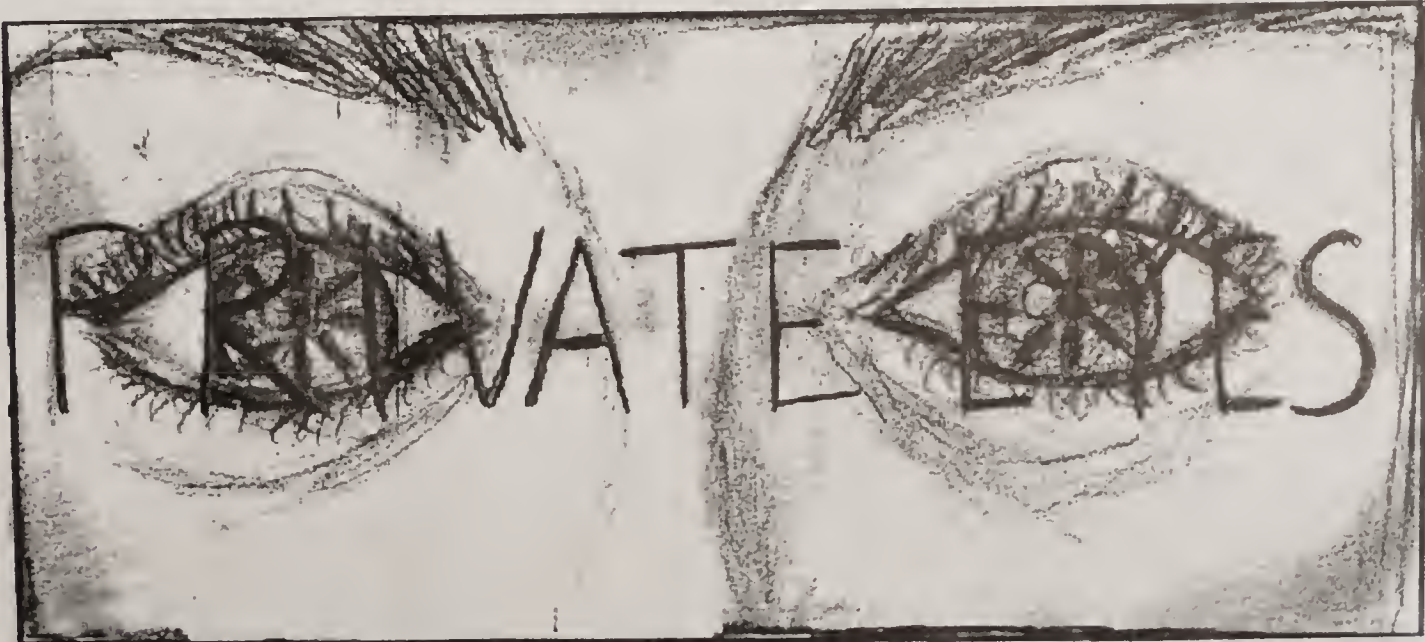
“I want to see your eyes. Do this”

Come and see *Private Eyes*. A play about deception, it promises to be a stellar production. The cast and crew are some of the most delightful and talented people to have graced the stage at Boston Latin. Three weeks before the premiere of *Private Eyes*, the cast has already managed to impress our very own Headmaster with their stunning deliverance of Steven Dietz’s challenging and provocative dialogue.

The play will be performed in the Black Box Theater of the West Wing on November 17th at 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm, November 18th at 2 pm and 7 pm, and on November 19th at 2. It features such talents as sophomore Faith Imafidon, junior Tommy O’Malley, and seniors Andy Barr, Allison Jolly,

and Nicole Hogarty. The production team is remarkably experienced and talented in all aspects of theater, led by senior Rose Costello, director, senior Richard Lawson, assistant director, and Adam Finelli, stage manager. Senior Doug Le, set designer, is also doing an exceptional job creatively using the new space.

The story follows a man’s meandering suspicions of his wife having an affair. Director Rose Costello describes it best, “Deception creates a shifting sense of reality.” The play has an amazing amount of depth for a high school production, but the cast and crew are up for the challenge. Come and revel in the deception, intrigue, and mystery.



Arts Spotlight



Tam Pham

By DIANA BUDA, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tam is a girl who sees Marilyn Monroe in the moon, singing her sad song with a gaping mouth and upturned eyelashes. It was nighttime and the sky was black, the dark Charles dotted with smudges of light, when she told me that. Never again will I look at the moon without seeing Marilyn. Tam Pham is an artist with an eye for beauty. "I am boring," she says in characteristic monotone, "I don't see why someone would want to write an article about me." Tam is quiet, intense and can appear to be belligerent at times, but she is not boring. Honestly, I didn't like the girl when I first met her at cross-country practice in the eighth grade. She sat apart from the rest of the girls, by herself, with a sour expression and what I perceived as an air of superiority. I didn't know that she was a wonderful person with a plethora of talents to be explored and developed.

Eighth grade was when she first started playing the French horn and when we started to become friends. Her honesty was at first threatening, but eventually she became someone I knew I could trust. Her generosity was surprising. Having realized that she was one-of-a-kind, it didn't come as a surprise when she replied that she loves to play the French horn because "no one else plays it because it's so difficult; you have to be very versatile." As a member of concert band since her sophomore year, she is open to the possibility of joining a band in college.

I used to be like her: quiet and reserved; qualities that people mistake for self-importance. Beneath Tam's reserved demeanor, there is a contained intensity that is only revealed through her artwork. She first started drawing "ninja turtles on breakfast cards and scribbling on walls" in the first grade. The first real art class she had ever taken was last year when she enrolled in first year of Art AP with Mrs. Craddock. Without having had any previous training, she has developed into one of the most prolific students in Art AP.

She calls her quickness of eye and hand "sloppiness". It is this unpretentious attitude that makes her stuff real and likable. The judges think so too; in last year's "Globe Scholastic Art" competition, one of her drawings won a gold key, the highest award offered. Last year, her work appeared on the cover and inside of *The Register*.

Her involvement with art extends beyond her own personal work to involvement in the arts community. During this past spring and summer she participated in "The Boston Mural Project" (which opened on October 26 at the new courthouse near Government Center), where she collaborated with peers and local artists to create a mural dedicated to the memory of the late D.A. Paul McLaughlin. During the last weeks before the start of this school year, she spent her time at Northeastern University's "AttStuff" program, which she calls a "cross-cultural artfest".

Tam is inspired by her idol Vincent Van Gogh. After viewing the recent exhibition of his portraits at the MFA, she remarked upon his use of "incredible color, life movement, and passion." She identifies with him because he was "misunderstood, for one thing," and "people thought he was a madman but he was really profound and soulful." Although Tam plans to take art in the future and to keep it as "a big part" of her life, she does not consider it to be her vocation. In fact she does not know where she is headed. "Maybe a health career?" At the end of our interview, when asked whether she would like to add anything, she replies modestly, "Umm." What she won't say in words, even to the closest of her friends, she tells powerfully in her artwork. Just take a look.

Drama Club Update

By JON GASS, JR., I & KAITLYN JOLLY, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

The Boston Latin School Drama Club and Centre Stage Productions have started off the 2000-2001 school year with a highly anticipated schedule. This award winning club (headed up by Jon Gass, Jr., I, Kaitlyn Jolly, I, Allison Jolly, I, and newcomer Adam Finelli, II) holds high expectations for this year's packed program.

On behalf of the producers, and of course our lovely faculty advisor, Ms. Teasdale, we would like to welcome you all to yet another school year. This year brings another exceptional season of theatre to BLS. To recap for the slew of new students and those who suffer from memory loss, last year was . . . complicated, with the exception of the tremendous success of our Guild production *Adaptation*. This year will be different!

The fall season includes two major productions, one of which is directed by students. Our first fall production is *Private Eyes*, written by Steven Deitz and directed Rose Costello, I. This play sends the audience through a whirlwind of illusion and reality. *Private Eyes* will surely set the precedence for BLS productions to come. It will be performed November 17-19 in the new Black Box Theatre.

An original show entitled *Mask* began its scripting process last spring and will continue as our second production this fall. This production is directed by Ms. Teasdale and with the help of a loyal and talented cast, it is sure to be a success. The culmination of this highly unique and artistic

piece will be its performance in early December.

This year we are continuing with the Yellow Submarine Troupe, a subdivision of the Drama Club focused on improvisation and theatre game training. This is a great way to meet new friends with the same interests as you. If you are the creative type who enjoys getting a little crazy or if you are just interested in furthering your acting skills in a fun way, then the Yellow Subs are for you!

The winter play will once again be taken to the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild in late February. The highly successful and award winning production of *Adaptation* advanced to the semi finals in last year's festival. This year's play, directed by Jon Gass, hopes to equal, if not surpass, that success. Auditions for the winter show will take place in mid December.

The Drama Club would like to welcome all students who are intereseted in any aspect of theatre arts. We cover acting, lighting and everything in between. For any additional information on any of these upcoming events, stop by the Theatre bulletin board outside of room 423 in the new wing. Notices for local auditions and theatre opportunities will be posted on the board. Keep your eyes peeled on the bulletin and signs around school for information on auditions and theatre events at BLS. We look forward to seeing many veterans and new faces this year. This year will truly be the dawning of a new age of theatre at BLS.

Coming Attractions. . . Megan Fountain

By ELIZABETH JOHNSON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is no simple way to categorize the artist Megan Fountain. This talented junior has almost all the bases covered when it comes to the arts. She has been taking piano lessons since first grade, and has been in choruses since elementary school. Currently, she sings alto in the Boston Latin School Concert Choir. She also expresses herself through dance—ballet, jazz, and her favorite—modern. Megan was a member of the Freelance Troupe for several years and now continues her work onstage as a regular Public Declaimer. Not only can she be found onstage, but she is also behind the scenes. She made costumes for BLS's production of "Adaptation" last winter. No doubt did she acquire some of the necessary skills for this task in the ninth grade when she took part in the X-treme Fashion Workshop at MassArt in which she designed and modeled her own creations. She is also kept busy with drawing and writing; the former—a skill she developed while taking art classes at the MFA.

Somehow all of this creativity has found its way into one gifted artist. Her talents often remain exclusive, but she hopes to one day be able to bring them together and

create a mixed media and performance art. She plans on entering the world of fashion design and becoming a rock star. She also hopes to use her creative talents in a field that she is equally passionate about: activism. "I look forward to changing the world," she says. Well, Megan, I look forward to living in the world you have affected with your inspiring work in the arts and activism in the community.



Jack Ferris

By NAFKOTE TAMIRAL, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who is Jack Ferris, also known as John Ferris? Well, he is a junior whose favorite color is blue, who enjoys listening to the Beatles and who writes in his spare time. His goal is to become a writer.

He is also the captain of the a improvisational group called the "Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe (YSIT)," which came into existence last year. Since sixie year, he's been an active member of the Drama Club. If all this doesn't sound very familiar, does the play



"The Wizard of Zo" ring a bell? Yes, because he wrote, directed, and co-starred in that play, performing the role of the Knight who wishes to avenge everyone's death with the battle cry, "Have at thee!" This hilarious play, which was performed last year, was one of the highlights of YSIT. It was also one of the highlights of Jack's career in the drama club. When asked where he gets his inspiration, he replied, "I don't really know. I just get the ideas from lying awake at night. I guess one was inspired by the *Wizard of Oz*, and another by thanatophobia. The ideas come from different places." He also said, "One of the most important things is to be an artist, and not a performer. In other words—don't sell out." Right now he is working on a new play entitled "The Making of the Play You're Watching Right Now", promises to be another great one. This leads to another question: When does he find the time to write all these plays and still survive at BLS? The answer? "I write at night when everyone else is sleeping, mua ha ha ha." Any new plays on the horizon? "I have another play, which I had called 'The Sixth Sense', but since that movie came out, I have to change the title."

Mural Crew Paints the Town Red

By SHANNA MASDEA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One fateful day in April, I accompanied a friend of mine to her after school job at Mural Crew, a subdivision of the Boston Youth Fund, located at 440 Park Drive across the street from the Fenway train station. Little did I know that this quaint brick building held more knowledge and excitement than I could have ever anticipated. As I watched kids from all over Boston paint, interact, and experience a life of art, three questions came to mind. First, where and how did this program start? Second, do these kids get paid to paint? And third, where do I sign up?

The program was created ten years ago by Heidi Schork, a dedicated artist and wonderful woman. Her mission was to create an atmosphere where kids could come and develop their artistic skills and at the same time create public art beneficial to

communities. The program consists of a Monday through Thursday after-school job

"I cannot think of any other way I would have wanted to spend my summer but under the hot sun and knee-deep in primer and latex paint."

that runs from October to June, an optional precursor to a summer position on a crew who paints during July and August. The after-

school program is designed to teach kids the basics of drawing and painting to prepare them for the summer project. And yes, you get paid to paint!

This past summer, the forty of us were divided into teams and scattered over various sites in Boston, ranging from Jamaica Plain to Dudley and Roxbury. I worked with the director herself and her assistant, Marshel Dackert, in a diverse crew of nine. We slowly began to realize that we had more in common than our love of art. When I reflect back on my summer, I see a painted canvas of activity and humor. I remember the agony of spilled paint and the conversations over greasy subs and pizzas. Most importantly, however, I recall how the nine of us became one large, dysfunctional family, arguing about little details (like who painted over what of whose); but pulling together in the end to create

something beautiful. Although we were only paid minimum wage, I cannot think of any other way I would have wanted to spend my summer but under the hot sun and knee-deep in primer and latex paint.

The Mural Crew is for those who love art. Yet talent alone will not get you by in this program. It takes what seems to be an obscene amount of patience and hard work, that really pays off in the end. The Mural Crew helps build a portfolio for college, enhances your skills, and gives you the chance to work side by side with a core group of professional artists. You are welcomed with open arms, and the experience fine-tunes your talents, making the good better and the better fantastic.

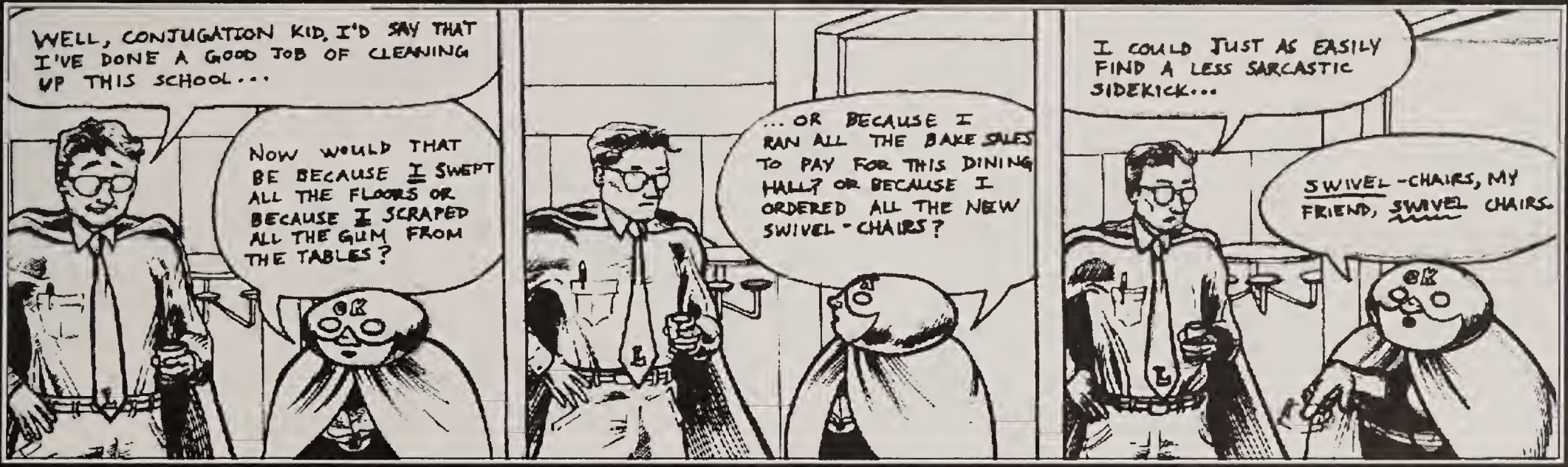
For more information contact Heidi Schork at (617) 635 - 4202.



Mural painted by Shanna and her crew on Geneva Avenue

The Continuing Adventures of Latin Man

By Ryan Montoya



Ballet Review: *La Bayadere*

By LU MEI HE, II
ASSISTANT ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The 1877 Marius Petipa original, *La Bayadere*, is reincarnated once again in the latest Boston Ballet Production, staged by artistic director Anna Marie Holmes. The production is one of many challenges, packed with full-length dancing, simply spectacular even without any help from the special effects.

La Bayadere, originally choreographed a century ago by Marius Petipa a widely acclaimed choreographer, recounts the touching love story of Nikiya, the head bayadere (temple dancer) and Solor, the strongest warrior of the land. Set in mystical India, the set includes many splendid adornments from including the ornate backdrop of leafy motif to the portrait of Solor and to the elegant and authentic looking Indian costumes, which were specially made in Ukraine. These elements contribute to the exotic atmosphere. However, there are a few anachronisms: Solor being brought on stage

on a fake circus look-alike elephant, the Roman toga adorned by the priests, and an subtle undertone of English accents.

The story is similar to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Solor, in return for his bravery in war, is rewarded by the High Rajah, who offers his daughter Gamzatti's hand in marriage. Solor, portrayed by Alex Lapshin, was technically magnificent, executing every difficult jump and turn with precision and at times, with the correct dose of emotion called for in the scene. Pollyanna Ribeiro, portraying Nikiya, also offered a superb performance, combining flawless techniques, fragility and strength.

The scenes in the ballet are connected by a sense of continuity between the dancers, which holds the mood and tension in the atmosphere. The scene in which Gamzetti confronts Nikiya and tries to bribe her into giving up Solor is magnificent.

Jennifer Gelfand, a veteran in the ballet world, gave a seamless performance as the jealous and regal Gamzatti. She is expressive in every way with her body, the audience can feel the energy and rage boiling inside her as she lurches toward Nikiya.

Gamzetti, unable to get Nikiya into changing her mind to give up Solor, kills her with a poisonous snake, hidden among a bouquet of flowers. The High Brahmin, also in love with Nikiya, offers her an anecdote. Ribeiro captured the emotion of the moment as she dramatically pauses, held a longing gaze with Solor, who turned away from her. Devastated and heart broken, she smashes the bottle on the floor, preferring to die rather than see them together.

In the last act, also the most famous act, is aptly named "The Kingdom of Shades." Solor, in his grief over Nikiya's death, smokes opium and hallucinates the Kingdom of

Shades. In this scene thirty-two corps de ballet members dressed in white slowly descend from a ramp, repeatedly doing arabesque backbends on point, over and over in unison. It is indisputably a difficult scene, one that can be ruined by the slightest wobbling and inept coordination. The Boston Ballet has pulled it off, nailing it in the technique department. The end result is visually hypnotic.

It is the little gestures in this ballet that make the biggest impact. The last scene shows Nikiya leading Solor to heaven, each holding the end of a long white scarf, manipulated to look like a wavy fluid. The scene is truly effective, as it leaves the audience with a sense of tranquility and brings back that happily ever after feeling from childhood fairy tales.

(*La Bayadere* is performing at the Wang from Oct. 19 through the Oct. 29.)

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Nov. 8: Baystate Show Choir Festival
 Riverside Theatre Works, Free Dance Workshop: 12-2 p.m.
 Nov. 9: *A Fair Country*, Huntington Theatre, student matinee
 Nov. 10-11: *Noises Off*, Emerson Majestic, 8 p.m.
 Nov. 13: Deadline for BLS Arts T-shirt Design Competition
 Nov. 15-28: Emerson Dance, Brimmer Fireplace Theatre, 8 p.m.
 Nov. 17: BLS Centre Stage Productions presents *Private Eyes*,
 in Black Box 3:30 and 7 p.m.
 Nov. 18: *Private Eyes* 2 and 7 p.m.
 SE District Senior auditions, King Phillip Regional HS
 Nov. 19: *Private Eyes* 2 p.m.
 Dec. 6-9: *Madd Forest*, Emerson Majestic, 8 p.m.
 Dec. 8: Centre Stage Productions presents, *Mask* 2:30 p.m.
 in the Black Box
 Dec. 9: *Mask*, 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 10: *Mask*, 12:30 p.m.
 Dec. 12: Auditions for Mass. State Drama Guild play
 (BLS winter production) 2:30-5:30 p.m. in Black Box
 Dec. 13: Auditions for Guild play, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
 Dec. 14: Guild play call-backs, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
 Dec. 19: BLS Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., venue TBA

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| American Reperatory Theatre (A.R.T.) | (617) 547-8300 |
| Boston Ballet | (617) 695-6955 |
| Boston Lyric Opera | (617) 542-4912 |
| Boston Public Library, Copley Square | (617) 536-5400 |
| Boston Symphony Orchestra | (617) 266-1200 |
| Braintree General Cinema | (617) 848-1070 |
| Charles Playhouse | (617) 931-2787 |
| Cheri (Sony) Cinema | (617) 536-2870 |
| Cleveland Circle Cinema | (617) 566-4040 |
| Colonial Theatre | (617) 931-2787 |
| Copley Place (Loews) | (617) 266-1300 |
| Dedham Showcase Cinema | (781) 326-4955 |
| Emerson Majestic Theatre | (617) 824-8000 |
| Greater Boston Arts (PBS) | www.pbs.org |
| The Huntington Theatre Company | (617) 266-0800 |
| Institute of Contemporary Art | (617) 266-5152 |
| Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum | (617) 566-1401 |
| Lyric Stage Co. of Boston | (617) 437-7172 |
| Museum of Fine Arts, Boston | (617) 541-4mfa |
| Museum of Science | (617) 723-2500 |
| Newton General Cinema | (617) 277-2500 |
| The Peabody House Cooperative | (617) 625-1300 |
| Randolf Showcase Cinema | (781) 963-5600 |
| TeleCharge | 1-800-447-7400 |
| TicketMaster | (617) 931-2787 |
| Wheelock Family Theatre | (617) 734-4760 |

Technology

Tech Spotlight: Roger Kueny

BY RYAN MONTROYA, I
GRAPHIC ARTS EDITOR

We should be listening in physics class. But we aren't. I'm conversing with a fellow senior of mine: glasses, slightly plum cheeks, short hair, and about a foot and a half taller than I am. His name is Roger Kueny. I take time aside from our usual banter and teacher impersonations, however, to find out more about what he's great with: computers.



Kueny runs the Web site www.gamingchronicle.com, a page that regularly reviews computer games and hardware.

"PR firms that handle all the major computer companies such as Microsoft and Sierra send us games for free, which we review," he continues, in perhaps (definitely) our most straightforward conversation ever.

A slight smile forms in the corner of his mouth as he says, "We get

10,000 hits a month."

It isn't surprising, however, for a web site that has been in operation for over two years now. After the first year, Kueny was joined by Lucas Huang, who has now moved up to the Vice President position, and according to Kueny actually "does most of the work now." Aside from these two hardworking Latin students, the staff is comprised of eight other writers who turn in their work to the dynamic duo.

"Although, some of them tend to die and have to be replaced," Kueny dryly comments.

Awkward silence, "Die meaning they die in internet terms ... They don't appear again" he quickly recovers.

A look of relief on the interviewer's face.

Aside from posting their own reviews, Gaming Chronicle submits newswires off of Microsoft. "The site design is my own now," the seventeen year old Editor-in-Chief and CEO (at least, that's how he signs the checks) continues, "though it incorporates parts that were done by some guy from Chicago that I contacted."

He leans forward.

"My site was started by three guys ... We used to write for this other Web site called Gamers Digest. But the guy had problems, and would decide at random intervals that he was "an artist" and could no longer use the computer ..." His voice lowers, reaching his punchline: "So we revolted ... and I stole his staff. ... We then started Gaming Chronicle, which is what our site is called." We burst out laughing.

"Roger! Ryan! Pay attention!" commands the physics teacher. I'll have to visit that Web site sometime. ...

The Government Can Read Your E-mail

The Tech Forum: Devon argues with . . . himself.

BY DEVON RUECKNER, I
ASST. TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

This past summer, an FBI technique of wire-tapping e-mail for investigations came into the public eye. The FBI can obtain a warrant to install the program, code name "Carnivore," at the suspect's Internet service provider (ISP). The ISP routes e-mail through this computer, and Carnivore taps the mail going to or from the suspect. There has been much controversy over the legality of these e-mail taps, and some privacy groups have sued. Two views are presented below.

Beneficial for Our Own Safety

There are many misconceptions about the FBI's program, and the paranoia surrounding any "big brother's watching" stories often blows the facts out of proportion. Also, naming it "Carnivore" was not too bright of the FBI either. Once we begin to look only at the facts though, you will see that Carnivore is a perfectly legal and necessary law enforcement technique.

Carnivore is, at its most basic, just a wiretap. Telephone wiretaps have long been sanctioned and upheld by the Supreme Court as constitutional; they fall under the Fourth Amendment searching rights. The government can invade your privacy with reasonable doubt and a warrant from a judge.

Tapping is used by the government to gain information about terrorists, drug dealing, and organized crime, and also by the BLS Administration to catch us cutting school. Without it, courts would have no evidence with which to prosecute, and the justice system would fail. As technology advances with the Internet, so do crimes and criminal communication. Now, you can use e-mail to discuss both real-world activities and new cyber-crimes, such as online credit card fraud and software piracy. In order to remain effective, tapping privileges must be extended to new forms of communication.

Another misconception, which my worthy, yet uninformed opponent may try to argue, is that the FBI now reads all mail that you send. This is simply not true. Carnivore is used to target a specific individual's mail, and will not interfere with yours (unless you are the one hacking into NASA's servers). Carnivore acts as a filter of sorts; everything ends up passing through exactly as it was sent, but the government computer makes copies of suspicious e-mail.

Many privacy groups are insisting that the FBI reveal exactly how Carnivore works so that the public will have a better idea of what is happening to their e-mail. This is a valid concern, but it must be balanced against the possible harms. If the FBI were to release details of Carnivore, malicious computer users could take advantage of this, and potentially find ways around it, rendering the program useless. In this respect, public safety outweighs public knowledge.

Invasion of our Privacy

Privacy is one of the most important things in our society; it is what keeps the government from being too powerful and taking advantage of its powers for its own benefit. Provisions for protecting our privacy were made in the Bill of Rights, and we as citizens must always be on the lookout for potential weaknesses in our rights. Carnivore is exactly the kind of weakness we must watch for. Just imagine if Barbara were permitted to perform random bag-checks; how could we ever smuggle food out of the cafeteria?

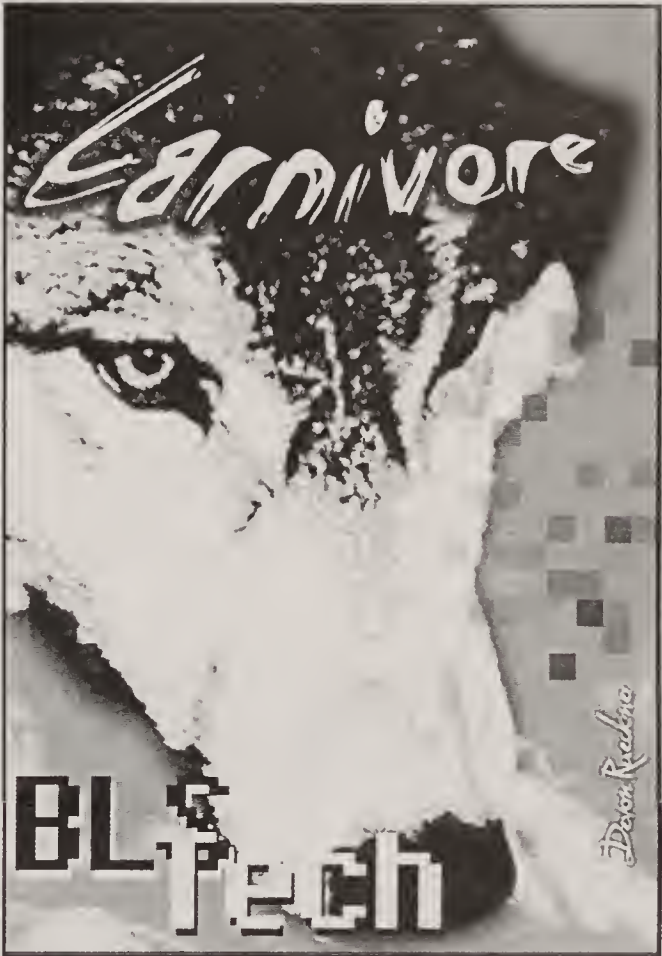
At first glance, Carnivore is for our protection. It is true that the government has the right to abuse the rights of suspected

criminals with reasonable doubt and a warrant. What the FBI and my moronic opponent try to keep quiet, however, is that Carnivore is easily used to read anyone and everyone's e-mail. Here is how it works: Once Carnivore is set up at an ISP, all local e-mail traffic is forwarded through this computer. According to the warrant, the FBI must set up filters that will supposedly weed out only e-mails covered in the warrant. However, there are a few major problems with this. Since Carnivore is kept locked up and secret, there is no way of anyone – courts, ISPs, or users – knowing exactly what the FBI is and is not filtering. In this respect the FBI is given the power, if not the authority, to read anyone and everyone's e-mail ... Including yours.

A second major problem with Carnivore is that only the FBI knows exactly how it works. Knowledge really is power and right now it's Government 1, Us 0. Not knowing how the program even

works means the FBI has absolutely no checks on what they can make it do. If they ever change it to search all e-mail for suspicious keywords for example, they would not have to tell anyone, and this would be a blatant invasion of everyone's privacy. It may even do that now; no one knows but them.

Cyber-crime and online criminal communication are serious issues, and must be dealt with. Nevertheless, we should not be forced to give up our privacy when there are non-infringing solutions to the problem.



New DVDs, CDs and ... Indigo iMacs at BLS

BY DENNIS NG, I
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Just how many Boston Latin School administrators does it take to manage a network for 2500 users? How many are needed to service 1200 simultaneously active network data ports? And how many could bring the most prominent high school in Boston to the forefront of technology?

The answer to all these questions is two: Ms. Catherine Meany, the Director of Technology, and Mrs. Paula DeMore, the network administrator, Boston Latin's full-time technology gurus. Consider these two authorities to be privileged despite their work load. Over the next twelve months, the powerful pair will be responsible for spending close to \$1.8 million on technology in the school; this is an unprecedented amount in this school's history.

Under the directive of the headmaster, Meany and DeMore are to outfit the oldest high school in the country with the newest of technology unparalleled by any school anywhere. All this is part of an effort to help Boston Latin become the benchmark of all high schools. Once implemented this year, the new technology will enhance the learning process, provide new ways to teach students, and educate our students for the real world.

From now until next October, the Boston Latin School will phase in five general-use computer labs and four specialized labs. Rooms around the school will be liberally sprinkled with computers and high-resolution LCD/TV projectors.

The greater part of the technological investment will lie in the functional application-specific labs, which means that these

labs have been built from the ground up to perform one task well.

"Anybody can buy white boxes [of computers]" Mrs. DeMore explained, "but we spent time making sure that the computer labs were functional and matched what we saw in the industry."

"The Boston Latin School has chosen the appropriate platform [PC or Mac] for each lab based on its strength and pervasiveness throughout the specific industry" added Ms. Meany.

The new Cogan language lab, the first fruit of their labor, opens the door to more personalized and interactive learning through selective broadcasting, monitoring, and student matching through third-party software. Located in the basement, the new lab features thirty-six computers, each complete with microphones and headsets, all of which can provide content from subtitled DVDs, tapes, CD-

ROMs and document viewers. Conversations and tests such as the AP language exams can be recorded by the computer and "burned" onto CD-Rs. The feature most highly appreciated is the ability to match students across a room randomly so that they can converse in pairs using the computers.

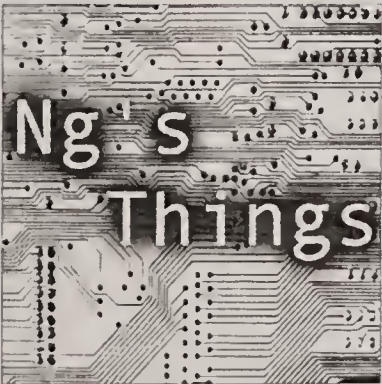
The other three specialized computer labs that will be launched this year are the Computer Graphics Lab, the Music Composition lab, and the College Search room. The Computer Graphics Lab will feature Apple iMac DVs complete with art tools such as Photoshop, Illustrator and Flash and color laser printers. The music composition lab will feature Macs connected to MIDI-compatible Korg keyboards. According to Ms. Meany, both labs mimic the configuration at the Mass. College of Art.

In February, every classroom in the school will hold a high-resolution projector, capable of distributing content from DVDs and

tapes held in the new library. The projects will also broadcast television feeds from various parts of the building such as the Headmaster's office. The projectors also allow teachers to show PowerPoint presentations from a teacher's monitor.

The long string of advances to come ahead is appreciated and welcome. As students, we are fortunate to have the resources that only past Latin alumni would have imagined. With all this innovative albeit expensive technology, the Boston Latin School is poised to compete with even the most fortunate of private schools. All this technology makes us wonder, how will our teachers keep up?

"We would definitely need some help on that one," they added.



Although many of his choices were questionable, Boston Latin did not complain. Hopkins was fired from his architecture firm one week later.

Mr. Hopkins, shown here at his main office, was a key player in the design of the new "Black Box" theater, in the new wing. His contributions include the decisions to paint the Black Box white, to put large windows directly behind the stage area, to obstruct the audience with a large overhang, to limit the theatrical lighting to "on" and "off," and to put in an undersized choir stage.

Sports

Defense Key Football Success

By JEREMY JACKSON, I
SPORTS EDITOR

With a stalwart defense and a determined array of running backs, the Boston Latin Football team has started off the season with a solid record of 2-2. Problematic special teams and offensive procedures have made the difference in the two games in which they lost. The team has been able to put together a couple of solid offensive games backed by senior quarterback Jon Speranza, and running backs Marcus Jordan, sophomore sensation Yemi Owolewa, and full back Kelvin Juarbe. For the most part, the big surprise has been the incredible success of the defense against some of the tougher offensive opponents of the DCL.

In the season opener against Matingon, the Wolfpack cruised to a 20-0 victory. The most obviously impressive aspect of this game was the production of the defense. With an overpowering performance on the defensive line by behemoths Ugo Ojimba, Jon Paul Bravo, Jared Deflurin, and Chinedu Okongwu, they were able to hold the Matingon offense to nothing. Breaking through the line and forcing errant throws from the quarterback, this defensive line proved to be one of the most effective that the school has seen in a while. In addition to the strength of the defensive line, the team has composed a perfect blend of speed and size in the secondary. Linebackers Erico Lopez, and the newly replaced due to injury Marcus Hughes, have provided the extra threat to the running game

that the defensive line needed in order to be aggressive. Keeping dangerous wide receivers at bay has been the rotating group of seniors compiled by T.J. Hannon at safety, and Marcus Jordan, Dennis Castro, and Brian Farnkoff at the cornerback positions. This group of hard-hitting speed demons has become one of the

team's most valued assets as the games come down to the wire, and the opposing offenses are looking more and more to pass deep.

Going on from the Matignon game to defeat Bedford, the team's defensive fortitude continued to be its strong point. The balanced offensive attack employed by Coach Costello has kept opposing defenses guessing whether to

look for the pass or the run. This confusion caused by smart play-calls has allowed the offense to pose its greatest threat from the ground, finding holes in the offensive line and using bursts of energy to gain significant yardage on key downs. This has been the basis for the offensive gains in the losses to Westford and Wayland.

The losses have been disappointing and close, and the wins have been blow-outs. The defense has made a name for itself in the DCL, and as the season moves on, it will be tested more and more with tougher opponents such as Acton-Boxboro and Catholic Memorial. The team has been building towards a more

consistent offense, and with the closely knit atmosphere of the locker room, their timing and difficult offensive formations are bound to fool more and more opponents.



Ms. Kelley's Wager

By ELISABETH MAGUIRE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the leaves begin to change color there is one thing on every Boston Latin School student's mind: the Thanksgiving Day Football game against English High. Not surprising is the fact that Ms. Kelley is also thinking about the game. This year is different for Ms. Kelley; her long time friend and coworker Jose Duarte was named the new Headmaster of English High this summer. The competition has now reached a personal level.

Jose Duarte was formerly the Principal of Grover-Cleveland Middle School, which is in the same cluster as Boston Latin School. While there, he and Ms. Kelley became good friends. She feels that "he is amenable capable, very charming and very good at what he does." Suddenly, now things are very different. When Ms. Kelley called to congratulate him on his position, his first words were "English is going to beat Latin on Thanksgiving." Ms. Kelley has a different opinion, "Of course the Wolfpack is going to beat English; I have great confidence in a terrific team and wonderful coaches. Plus I know that everyone will be supported by the Cheerleaders, the Football Band, the Step Squad, and all of the fans, especially the alumni, who every year show up at Nickerson Field (Boston University) to support the Wolfpack."

There is also a new twist this year. Ms. Kelley and

Mr. Duarte have made a bet. If English wins the game, Ms. Kelley will have to wear an English High sweatshirt for a day at Boston Latin; if Latin wins the game, Mr. Duarte will have to wear a Boston Latin sweatshirt for a day at English High. When asked if she was absolutely positive that she would win the bet, Ms. Kelley responded "I just want the team to go out hard, do a good job and make me proud." Other faculty members seemed more certain of a win as Mr. Fulton bragged, "Make sure we find out what size he wears!"



Golf Team Takes A Swing At Things

By GREGORY PORTER, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Not many people here at Latin pay much attention to the sport of golf. In fact, most of us have probably never even picked up a golf club. However these days with young superstars like Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia, the sport has been gaining popularity.

While this newfound interest in the sport may just seem like the latest trend, the appeal of golf is nothing new to the fourteen members of the Boston Latin golf team. Every year, these guys play sixteen matches against teams in the DCL,, as well as out of the league teams.

This year's squad looks for its veteran leadership from the two senior captains, Owen Roddy and Dan Fitzgerald. With the team not having had a win in the past few years, a major goal for this year was to try and salvage at least a few victories.

Going into this year, the team knew this goal was going to be tough since Latin competes in the DCL, known



for being "one of the toughest leagues" in eastern Massachusetts when it comes to golf.

With so many tough opponents on the schedule, Latin will look to capitalize on some out-of-league foes such as Catholic Memorial and Latin Academy, who are both due to make appearances at Latin's home course, George Wright in Hyde Park. Also, teams such as Newton South and Wayland, who have been among the best in golf the past few years, have lost much of their great talent and hopefully will provide Latin with few wins down the stretch this year.

And that is exactly what happened. Ironically, on Friday, the thirteenth of October, the boys of the Latin golf team finally got their first win in three years, a 53-51 victory over Wayland. After years of being stuck in the sand trap, they chipped themselves out of the rough and into the win column. Said leader of the victory Dan Fitzgerald; "It's about damn time!"

While making the state tournament may still seem like a long shot for these men, longtime coach Bennie Myers does have a determined bunch this year, who also benefit from experience. Several players are returning veterans from past seasons including seniors Brendan Connell and four year veteran Mike Manning, juniors Steve Casper and Tim Mahony and, Myers's hope for the future teams, freshmen Zack Robbins and Scott Sherick.

Some new faces did join the team this year too, such as seniors Steve Tompkins, Peter Foundas and Dan O'Brien. Altogether, the team hopes to gain some momentum behind their coach and two captains Fitzgerald, a three-year veteran himself, and Roddy, a DCL all-star last year.

History has shown that the Latin golf team has not had much luck in the category of wins, but the Wolfpack looks to change that trend and overcome their past struggles. They will be facing a new scoring system based on points instead of the old system of match play, to try and wipe the slate clean. Getting their first win in the past three years last week is a good start. And who knows what could happen from there. As the sport becomes more popular and the golf team gets more young talent, we might be looking at the State Champion Boston Latin golf team in a few years. Well, maybe we should just take it one win at a time.

Sports Roundup

Boys' Soccer

By Karyn M. Rautenberg, I

Staff Writer

Officially, Matt Wright and Tobin McKenna lead the boys' soccer team as the captains. However, Coach Osoweicki and the many seniors add much character and attitude to this unrelenting Wolfpack team. The spirit of this team is unquestionable, competitive by nature and pushed hard by Coach "O." With incredible effort and determination, the boys come out every day to play a game they can be proud of. The boys recently tied the number seven team in the state, Westford, knocking them out of the top ten. They came back from a 1-0 deficit with seven minutes left in the game to tie it up, a tie which they fought hard to keep. Other highlights of the season include the two CM games which are always huge because the players have a more local sense of competition. Both games were tied in the end, 1-1 and 2-2, despite Latin's dominance on the field.

On the defensive end for Latin, senior Jacob Bor heads up the backfield at sweeper. When his skill is needed at midfield, junior Brandon Swanson takes over and completes the task of keeping the ball out of "the zone." Others commonly found on defense stopping the attack are seniors Matt Erlich, Jason Allukian, Diego McCafferty, junior Alec Gordon, and sophomore Paul Laroque. They have all battled hard to earn starting positions throughout the season. But regardless of who is playing sweeper or defense, shots get off and luckily, the boys have John Perakis in the net. John has greatly developed his skills and reactions as keeper over the years and has done an excellent job this season with his unyielding efforts to keep the ball out of the net. Sophomore Josh Stuart-Shor has come up from JV a couple times to get some experience as a Varsity goalie; preparation for next year has already begun.

Captain Matt Wright, "an all-around excellent player," leads a midfield that seems to change every game. Also contributing to the midfield is senior Jonah Birch, as well as sophomore Glen Ryan. Both seniors Erlich and Bor, who played on an all-star team with Tobin McKenna in England, also help out at midfield. Senior Steve Delosh has contributed significantly to the Wolfpack squad in many different positions, always ready to jump into the action and set up runs. Captain Tobin McKenna, the best "header," and Tony Hamad, the team's leading scorer, lead the attack at the forward position. These seniors are joined by junior Matt Regal, who recently came back from injury and scored two goals against Weston. Sophomore Dave Hourihan has showed some solid defense on the Varsity field, as well as junior Max Bestien who has used his speed to help at defense. The Boys' 2000-1 Soccer team may not have the best record, but they certainly have the right attitude, striving to win and unwilling to lose, the original Latin athletic spirit.

Cheerleading

By Caroline O'Donnell, II

Contributing Writer

"Move the ball . . . down the line . . . score six!" If these words of encouragement don't make you want to score a touch down, I don't know what will. Through rain, sleet, and freezing cold temperatures, these fourteen members of the BLS cheerleading squad remain spirited and vivacious, jumping for joy with every completion and screaming at the top of their lungs for a touchdown. These girls do all of this and more all in less than adequate apparel for the cold fall months.

This year's team is very young, but they have been improving steadily each week. They work diligently every day after school, improving their skills as well as learning new routines. Having so many new members may seem like a challenge, but these dynamic girls are up and ready for anything.

The squad welcomes nine new members this year. Among them are Heather Hansen, Arianne Bunnell, Keri Antonelli, Kanli Zhou, Jenna Martell, Melissa St. Pierre, Tiffany Gelott, Michala Mulhern, Elizabeth Rouse, Cindy Legagner,

and Halle Melcher. The alternates, Marianne Zaslavsky and Analisa Smith-Perez are ready and waiting to jump in when needed. These members are under the instruction of veteran captains Christina Bocchino, Krista Messina and senior Brandy Oakley. Brandy can always be seen revving up the sidelines at each football game with her gigantic smile and immense voice. "She really knows how to get the crowd going" says co-captain Krista Messina. "She has been working really hard with the new members and they look up her." One lady whom all of the girls look up to is long time coach Ms. Hantout, who can always be found in the front row at each game cheering on "her girls" as she calls them.

The cheerleaders are often the forgotten members of a sporting event, but just imagine for a moment what the Thanksgiving day game would be like, or how dull the pep rallies would be if they didn't show up; there would be a tremendous void. Sportsmanship, and a great attitude go further than one may think. So next time you're sitting in the bleachers at White Stadium, idly watching the game, take a look at the squad. They are sure to get you jumping out of your seats and make you leave with a smile on your face.

Girls' Volleyball

By Jimmy Sun, III and Adam Weiss, III

Contributing Writers

Girl's volleyball is not a sport that gets much recognition at this school. As junior Gissel Morales puts it, "Most people think volleyball is not a real sport, but they don't realize how much effort it really requires." In spite of this lack of publicity and recognition, approximately thirty girls gather in the gym after school each day to bump, set, serve and spike.

This year's varsity team is young, but talented. After loosing six of last year's varsity seniors, including Dual County League MVP Massielle Morales, this year's team is anchored by its returning varsity members Gissel Morales and captains Gloria Shum, Caroyln Lennon and Emily Conroy. Coming off a decent season last year, Conroy says she is "excited about the season, because we have the best team talent wise in the past few years." Morales, Shum, Lennon and Conroy, along with sophmores Sarah Choi and Sandy Wong, compromise the varsity's starting six. The remainder of the varsity team is made up of Jenny Cheng, Megan Faherty and Kasia Preneta. These girls have thrived so far in a different DCL, posting an impressive 6 - 3 record to date.



This year's JV team is also full of new faces, chosen from over fifty girls who attended tryouts. Their captain and setter is My Le Nguyen, who returns this year along with Becky Wong. The other starters are all first year players including, Mabel Wong, Wendy Lee, Laura Hauck, and Erin Fleming. The JV team is very large, and not everyone gets to play in every game. Nevertheless, they all work hard in practice and continue to get better. Playing in the DCL is not easy, and in almost every game the other team seems to have the height advantage, but the JV girls have also managed an exciting record of 7 - 4 so far.

Of course, it is not easy to hold together any sports team, let alone in volleyball. The man you see supervising drills, critiquing a bump, fine-tuning a serve, orchestrating a play, and generally just keeping the team from falling apart is Coach Kai Yuen. Always smiling, even when you drive him nuts, he is, in the words of Morales, "the best coach ever."

As anyone can see, volleyball is not easy. It requires intense coordination, physical skill and teamwork. Both teams will be exciting to watch as they come together to fight through tough emotional roadblocks and pull out with victory.



By Jeremy Jackson, I

Sports Editor

James ruffles his short red hair and readjusts his book bag as he looks down the long, dark, Boston Latin School corridor, while the 3:00 bell resounds in the background. He has just spent the last 45 minutes after school looking for a sport to join. He just can not seem to find a place for himself in the big, scary world of overly-competitive high school sports.

At least, to him it seems overly-competitive, but for the 6'3", 230 lb. senior down the hall it is the only way that sports should be played. The freshmen football team laughed at him, the girls' volleyball players spiked balls at him, the cross country team ran away from him, and the soccer team jogged in circles around him. No one takes this little man's interest in sports seriously. In a world where over-grown seniors rule the hallways and the playing fields, the national high school community desperately needs to ask itself a question: "What is the goal of high school sports?"

If a stranger were to come and look at our school, he would most likely come to this answer: "To praise and glorify the most talented, while we march on to defeat our evil foes!" Mrs. Kelley was quoted earlier in the fall as saying that she had made a special wager with English High's new Headmaster regarding the Thanksgiving Day game, obviously using this "wager" as a ploy to gain attention and a better image of school spirit. She didn't seem to realize exactly what she was doing. Mrs. Kelley's wager proved to be a perfect example of the level to which our society has taken high school sports. The competitive focus and reputations at stake in every game are now made most important in high school sports. This idea has become so prevalent, and generally accepted by the students that even the leaders of our school have lost focus of the real goal of high school. The school's statement of purpose (found in the agenda) assesses this issue quite clearly, by recognizing the importance of the development of the whole

person, and expressing the need for physical and health education in order to maintain a sound mind and body. The emphasis on competition deters many students from attaining this goal. There have always been, and still are, uncoordinated, slightly shy kids like James, who have the same physical enrichment needs as all of the great athletes, and are left out in the cold.

In our school of over 2,300 students, only an estimated 210 are involved in a sport each season. In such a large school, the needs of so many students cannot afford to be neglected any longer. The BLS demand for easy-going after school physical fitness programs is high, and the administration is providing an accurate supply. There are certain schools in the area, such as B.U. Academy and Newton South, that have taken their focus from the individual glory that so many high schools stress, and put it on improving the physical development of all of the students. While there are physical education teachers who are focused on bringing this important aspect of education to the top of the schools list, there are even more at our school who do not daily strive to make our phys-ed classes helpful and interesting. When this is compounded with only one phys-ed class every six school days, it does not begin to meet the demand. High school could be used as a perfect time to start life habits in physical fitness for many people who will, later in life, regret not taking

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Sports Spotlight



John Paul Bravo

By Kaitlyn Jolly, I
Arts and Entertainment Editor

At 5'10, 250 lb., John Paul Bravo (known as "Biggie" by most) exhibits stellar athleticism coupled with a driving sense of leadership. An irrefutable combination, that in Biggie's case, has proved infinitely successful. In other words, he's NASTY.

"The defense has only allowed fourteen points in three games" (the other six points being off of an interception return), says Biggie. As defensive left tackle, he has anchored the defensive line since the middle of his sophomore season. In addition to his strong presence on defense, Biggie has also been starting as offensive left guard for the past three years, not to mention that he is the captain and fearless leader of the Pack. Team goals for Biggie's final season of Latin football include, advancing to the division II Super Bowl and/or to just do well and go out with a bang. "We should do well, we certainly have the tools to do so," says this Wolfpack leader. Biggie approaches athletics with a level headed sense that allows him to acknowledge the positive aspects of a game and personal performance. At the same time, he is aware of any weaknesses, though there are few.

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, this Peruvian, Roslindale-East Boston product also captains the wrestling team and holds the following titles: DCL All-Star, Division I South Sectional champ, and Bay State Games champ. With last year's record of 25-5 Biggie's goal of being State Division I Heavyweight State Champ, are well within his reach. As he is one of the lighter, more agile heavyweights, if you come to a match, you most always will see Biggie running circles around the competition. But as it is with football, he maintains a high level of integrity and sportsmanship, and is his own harshest critic.

Athletes with talents like Biggie's are rarely seen. This two-letter athlete has already achieved greatness in both of his sports. And it couldn't have happened to a better guy. Beyond being a great athlete, Biggie is a great person. For instance, how many people would wake up at an ungodly hour on a Sunday, to come all the way from Eastie to Brookline to see a friend in a girls wrestling tournament? The answer is: not many.

As far as Biggie's future, wherever he goes he will undoubtedly tear it up. Being recruited and playing football in college is a reality for Biggie, who wants to attend a "school that has a good engineering program, and that shows the most interest in me." With that kind of confidence level, there's not much that could block his path to success. If anyone has a shadow of a doubt as to Biggie's achievement, I encourage you to catch a football game or come to wrestling meet and witness his unprecedented talent.

Superfan Says Kilts Mandatory!

By Joseph Coffey, I
Assistant Sports Editor

The time has come for another "Superfan" to step into the light of Latin Athletics and promote school spirit. The purple and white pride, which has lasted since 1635, shall prosper as long as the people of Boston Latin continue through their support of all sports teams.

This fall I attended a football game in which we played against Bedford at White Stadium. Walking up to the bleachers I was approached by a numerous amount of my classmates and saw others cheer at the top of their lungs for the home team. Aside from dedicated students, I began to skim over the crowd and noticed many alumni, teachers, and other people, many of whom don't even have a relationship with the school but decided to attend anyway because they love the atmosphere and tradition. After chowing down on a few hot-dogs, I found a seat and became one with the spectators. Later in the game between the excitement and craze, I remember speaking with one fellow, who, having graduated from Boston Latin in 1962, exclaimed that "a lot has changed with the school, the architecture with the



construction going on and all, but one thing that has lasted and will probably always exist is the tradition and spirit behind Latin." This is what the school should strive to maintain: a sense of community, involvement and devoted spirit to the school community.

The fact that those who attend the games, and watch our courageous athletes battle for victory and glory in the name of Boston Latin, is unique with the history of

our school, and also plays a major role in maintaining school spirit. Whether you are an athlete or spectator, participation in school athletics is key.

Over the summer I gave much thought to the Latin-English Thanksgiving game for this coming year. It is my proposition to have Kilt Day on this same day. Now what exactly is Kilt Day? Last year at the Thanksgiving Game I recall seeing a student of Boston Latin running up and down the sidelines at Boston University's field while the game was going on, wearing a kilt. I approached the young man after the game and quite bluntly inquired "Why are you wearing your mother's dress?" The lad looked me directly in the eye and stated "To intimidate the other team." He wanted this to be a setting stone for future students to follow. The importance of school community and involvement should be stressed and if everyone were to wear a kilt there would be a strong sense of unity.

It is my eager request that on Thanksgiving Day, all-willing spectators would wear their kilts to the game in a movement of school spirit. All students shall be notified for further information regarding my proposal, and in the mean time, keep smiling and being there for your fellow classmates.

Girls' Swim Team Splashes Into Season

By Elizabeth Arias, I
Contributing Writer

The Girls Swimming and Diving Team has been forced to go where no team has ever gone before, miles and miles away from school to practice. At the Murphy School, the sixty or so swimmers and divers take up every inch of the pool to do their daily workouts. As of now, the team's record stands at 3-2, with several more wins in sight. Their toughest competition comes from Sandwich, Newton North, and Brookline. Nicole Devlin said of the team, "The BLS swim team is about a lot more than winning races and having an undefeated season. The team is about coming together, working hard, and always giving 100 percent effort no matter what the outcome of the meet."

The team is headed by captains, Erin Burke, Meghan Davoren, and Nicole Devlin. All three captains work hard both in and out of the pool to keep the team unified and motivated. Their leadership is one of the major reasons for the team's success. Emily Poles, a fairly recent

newcomer, does an excellent job in the 100-meter backstroke and 200 freestyle. Heather Showstead sweeps the competition in the 100-meter breaststroke and 200 Individual Medley. Kara Keeley's consistency in the 50 freestyle



put the Wolfpack on track other seniors who also contribute very much to the success of the team include: Katie Curtin, Sarita Frattoroli, Katie Freeley, Ashley O'Brien, Patricia Russell, Suzy Vo, and Allyson Wall.

There are several underclassmen that also deserve mention for their incredible performances. Ninth grader Sharon Silverman, a newcomer to the team, has shown excellent promise, already a state and sectional qualifier. Her events include the 50 and 100 freestyle. Junior Emily Robbins, an exceptional swimmer in her own

right, has also qualified for sectionals and swims the 100 fly and 200 I.M. Caroline O'Donnell, adored for her Love Shack performances and crazy stunts, off on the team when needed most. Junior Kate Naber swims the 100 meter backstroke very well and gives it her all every day. Diana Hoang is always consistent, hardworking, and does everything that is asked of her.

Seniors, Lauren Gilmore and Stephanie Gonzalez, lead the Diving Team. The duo, having come off a very successful season last year, are working hard to increase the difficulty in their dives. Both are technically merited and have graceful form. Their dives add a heightened suspense to any meet.

The swim team has also made other significant changes by encouraging one another and giving votes of confidence through spirit pals and the colorful signs that adorn their lockers. They take pride in their team and the captains all agree that Mr. Conley and Katie O'Reilly are wonderful coaches.

This year is especially important for the Girl's Swim Team because of the fifteen seniors which lead the Pack. The team would appreciate your support and encourages you to show it by attending their meets, the last home meet being November 3rd. Good luck on the rest of the season and as Captain Meghan Davoren said, "Even though there isn't room to mention sixty girls, every single one of them counts."

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Over the River and Through the Woods. . .

By Emily Robbins, II
Contributing Writer

They emerge from the confinement of 7th period and make their way to the locker rooms. Changing quickly into spandex pants and layer upon layer of T-shirts, they shed the stress and anxiety of the day to go out for a run. They zig-zag through downtown Boston, training for their meets. They are the BLS cross-country team.

This year the cross-country team has reaped the benefits of having many dedicated runners. The girls' team has flourished due to the addition of many freshmen, including Elizabeth O'Donnell, Sunny Toomey, Kepley de Palma, and Kerry Sullivan. Bridget Butler (II) and Leigh Gilmore (II) lead the pack as captains of the girls' team. Talented team veterans Orla O'Brien (II) and Joanna Humphrey (II) as well as Lindsay Wong and Kim Szeto have been showing the output of their hard work on the racetrack. Butler says of this year's team and coach, "Mr. Meagher is a great coach. He really believes in us. We are all really close. It's a real team sport."

Senior captain Joe Coffey is

happy that "people are finally coming to realize that cross country takes determination, time, and effort". The boys' team is also a younger team compared to those of past years.



Coffey leads his squad of Chris Coletta (I), Roger Poulin (III), Rob Fitzpatrick (III), and Will Dammin (III). The younger freshmen runners, including Jonathon Yee, have proven to be important to the team and will keep it going strong in the future.

You may not know much about this quiet team sport, but they certainly deserve recognition. Coach Mike Meagher heads the team at their home course of Franklin Park. They practice everyday after school, training anywhere from 5 to 8 miles. They compete in races with other DCL league teams in courses that range from 2.8 miles to 3.1 miles (5K). Runners compete in the occasional rugged terrain for both individual and team points. The cross-country team is a great way to build endurance and prepare for the upcoming Indoor and Outdoor track seasons.

The entire team is gearing up to end the season well, but until then they will continue to dodge Boston's afternoon downtown traffic with one goal in mind, to win.

Sports Spotlight



Erin Burke
By Elizabeth Arias, I
Contributing Writer

On a typical day of practice, Erin Burke can be found in the far lane, the leader in a series of exercises. Her face is stern and flushed from her efforts. Her strokes are steady and graceful as they slice the still surface of the water. Her head turns to the side for a gasp of breath and is in sync with the rhythmic churning of her stroke, which she has perfected over the years.

In the halls, Erin's voice can be heard at a distance as she casually saunters down the corridor. There are many words that describe Erin Burke: outgoing, cheerful, and a true individual. When I think of Erin, the word versatility comes to mind. Few have the capability to dive on a diving team and switch to swimming the year after. Fewer still have the ability to excel in both. Erin has both a passion for the sport and a drive to achieve, which can be seen at practice where being laxis not an option. Erin is a swimming force to be reckoned with.

At the young age of seven, along with gymnastics, Erin began swimming for the Eagles, a U.S. team. She later became a part of the Eagles and quickly found her forte, the 50 free and 100 free, two of the fiercest and most competitive events in swimming. At the Districts Championships of New England last year, she placed 4th in the 50 free and 12th in the 100 free, an event which propelled her motivation as a swimmer. As a member of the Dedham Clippers last year, a team which she also coaches, Erin broke the suburban league record in the 200 free relay.

Erin is one of the tri-captains for this year's BLS swim team. Erin says of the experience, "just the whole five years, it's amazing to look back and remember how this was all we were waiting for. Now this is it and it'll be over so soon and all that will be left will be the memories." These unforgettable memories include qualifying for sectionals in the 50 free, 100 free, and 100 fly as well as qualifying for states in the 50 free, 200 medley, and 200 free relays. As a sprinter, if her powerful windmill strokes don't catch the competition, her turn definitely will.

An integral member of the Girls Outdoor Track Team, Erin qualified for states in triple jump and as a member of the triple jump relay team, who became State Champions. Erin is also a part of the Model UN team, Public Declamation, and helps out underclassmen as a tutor and Peer Leader. In the future she hopes to pursue meteorology at M.I.T or Washington University and swim, of course.

The "immense team spirit" that exists at the pool, and the seniors who "are really great at keeping the team together" are also very important to her. Erin insists that she would not be where she is today without the help of her great friends. Either by giving her moral support or simply supplying a ride to practice, they have always been there for her. Erin looks to continue her successful ways in this year in both sports and academics.

Down, but Don't Count Them Out

By Alicia Tildsley, I
Contributing Writer

The Wolfpack Girls Soccer Team has always felt the challenge of being the underdogs. Each year, these girls face teams with some of the most skilled athletes in the state. In the DCL, five out of the eight girls soccer teams go to the final state tournament. This shows the intense level of competition that the team encounters in this trying sixteen game season. However, the girls will not be intimidated. They deserve to be recognized for their hard work and talent, not by the record, which does not seem to represent the dedication that this team has for the sport that they love.

During the last two weeks of August these girls labored at improving their game while most Latin students were enjoying their last days of summer. After participating in vigorous training sessions of soccer camp, they returned home eager for their season to begin. Senior captains, who their coach, Mariana Todesco describes as "extremely supportive and showing all of the important qualities of leadership," Holly Brideau, Amy Cochrane, Laura Tobias and Alicia Tildsley looked forward to a promising season.

Their first game ended in a close score against Westford Academy. Their next match was a night game, under the lights in Weston. The team was greatly encouraged by the presence of fans, a luxury the girls are not accustomed to that frequently. It was a proud event for the pack, every player gave

Coach Todesco what she asked for at the start of the game; "one hundred percent". The game saw a much anticipated goal by junior forward, Sara Shiggs-Quiroga, and countless important saves by freshman goalkeeper Katie Barnes.

The games that followed showcased the special abilities of other Wolfpack team members. At an away game in Bedford, junior Becca Bor scored her first goal of the



season. In addition, the strong control of the middle by Laura Tobias and junior Megan Rounseville was exceptional. The team lost only 2-1. In another close game versus Concord, junior Amanda Martin took a great shot to score the only goal of the game and goalie Amy Cochrane was able to keep Concord's highly skilled forwards to only one goal.

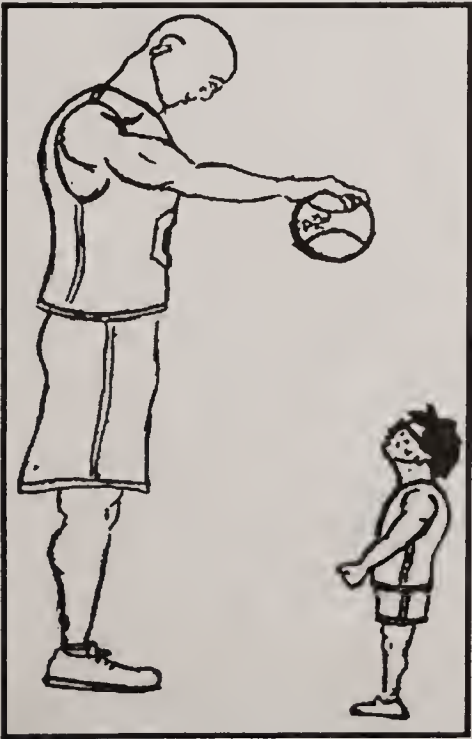
Other exciting highlights of the season have been constant exemplary play

from the defensive squad headed by Alicia Tildsley and including valuable players, freshman hustler Amanda Kessler, sophomore heading champion Alex Allukian, aggressive senior Jessica Price, and the unsurpassed team spirit of senior Karyn Rautenberg who helps to keep her teammates on their toes with her enthusiasm in the goal, and on the sideline. One of the best goals all season was an amazing bicycle kick goal scored by Holly Brideau at Wayland. More goals are certainly on the way with strikers "post-girl" Jackie Coffey and the lightning speed of sophomore Jodine Brown. The extraordinary hustle and persistence of senior Liz Walzack and sophomore Annie Roddy certainly add to the motivation of this team. Juniors Kate Pappas and Liz Erlandson have contributed their amount of control on the field at midfield as have Courtney Carthas and Nadine Deery on defense. Aislynn Doherty started the season as a forward but has really done a great job in recent games taking goals away from the other team as a wing defender.

The Lady Wolfpack always shows up with the passion and spirit to play the game they love. The effort really showed at Newton South when the team came together and played great defense and made nice passes to tie them 1-1. Future games are sure to continue to display the unity and ability to succeed as a team.

(Jackson, Continued from page 17)
action on the subject. Every student in this school needs some sort of physical fitness regimen.

Many athletic coaches, phys-ed teachers, and psychologists believe very strongly that creating a steady routine of physical exercise helps to create a stress free environment for kids who are regularly overwhelmed. They propose that after coming home from a physical work out, the mind is more at ease, all of the restless energy has been expelled, and the student is more ready to do his or her homework. This idea has proved very true for many student athletes in our school. Many students have joined larger teams, such as track and field, in order to get that physical exercise so important to a



person's development. While the track team is a helpful resource for students who recognize this need, it cannot feed the entire school's demand or interest. The answer to this problem seems more and more to be the introduction of intramurals.

BLS has taken a great step towards a better fulfillment of the students' interests and needs with the new Arts building, however there are still very pivotal necessities that are being neglected. The energetic students at Latin school each have individual needs for athletic exertion. While smaller, less athletically inclined students like James can cheer for their hearts out for the school football team, they must remain at the side lines and grow no more, because they go to Bosron Latin School.

John Yessayan: 1986-2000

The Argo remembers BLS freshman John Yessayan. We thought long and hard about how best to honor our fallen colleague. His laugh, his dedication, and his constant good nature made him a model and an inspiration to those who knew him, as well as to those who never met him. In the end, we decided to let the people whose lives he has touched remember him. The following quotes were taken from the memorial banner in the dining hall, as well as solicited from John's teammates and friends.

Que Dios te bendiga a John.

All these kids felt privileged to know him.

GEM classes in 7th grade...

No words can describe John, he was an angel, a gift from God.

He always knew how to make me smile. I never got to tell him how much I loved him. I hope he knew.

I can't really put my feelings on paper right now, but you know how I feel, you better be there when I get up there.

Do you remember how I first met you? How I asked to borrow fifty cents even though I didn't know you, you said "I don't know you either, but you can have fifty cents." Then I said Thanks and asked you your name, you said "Billy-Bob John, but you can call me John." And that is why you always made us laugh.

John, you'll still be pushin me to be my best.

We were going to be the "Magnificent Seven" and be the defense for the JV's offensive practice, but instead we sat in prayer.

I asked if he began to feel any better; he responded by saying "Yes, a little." Then he smiled after these last words his final action, a smile.

Last year we would constantly argue who would play goalie that season. He of course won out. But his last game, he decided to play forward and I played sweeper. He and I got goals. I think it meant something, but what?

John Yessayan, the boy with a smile, the boy with the answer to life- live it and be happy living it. He enjoyed his life and added greatly to so many of ours, helping us to achieve the same as his, a wonderfully happy life. We love him and we miss him, for every time we smile, we know he's doing the same from above, wishing us well. Every time I smile, it's my way of saying "Hi John, and thank you."

I prayed for your son with the deepest sincerity and in my heart I believe that your son is alright, on the right hand of God and all heaven is rejoicing, for what a treasure they have found.

Your jersey said #40, but in our hearts you are #1.

To John- Whether it was pulling my hair, holding my leg up, or giving me a piece of gum, you could always make me smile. And for those of you that didn't know him, I feel bad for you.

The funny jokes and the nonstop laughter...You were a great kid and always will be.

To the Yessayans- You raised one tremendous boy. He was my friend, my enemy and my friend again. That's why I liked him.

I'd always call him "John Yes-I-Am," and he'd always laugh at me.

I turned to him with my problems. He was so incredible, he had so much to give.

He stood up for me once, that's when I realized what a special person he really was. I remember him at the dances when no one was dancing with me, John would always say yes to a dance even if he didn't feel like dancing.

John was a wonderful person, and no one was ever able to say a bad word about him, nor are they now.

Remember the connections show?? and remember afterschool tutoring with Ms. Lewis? Somehow, we always managed to have fun.

Friends come and friends go, but a true friend will leave footprints in your heart.

How do I get on without you? I know you'd want me to find a way, so I will. Every time I touch the field, every time I take that ball, and every time I run into that endzone, it's gonna be for you Johnny.

Please for John we have to stay strong and smile cause he always did.

When I couldn't stand on my own
You carried me on your back
You loved us all, and let it be known
You deserved to run with the Wolfpack.

Coach would always ask, "John do you know the play?" John would answer "Yes," and it always reminded me of the play against Bedford.

You couldn't have met a nicer kid or a harder working football player. Whenever I would go up against him in practice he would smile at me and say "Hi," just to intimidate me. It always worked and he would take me down. I just don't understand how such a tough kid could leave us so suddenly.

I'm glad I knew you and I'm glad I know you.

We will all be thinking of him every time we touch a football, and for me, every time I enter Biology class. We are going to miss him.

I was there when you told us Johnny was dead. It hit me harder than John ever hit. He was always one of the first dressed, whenever there was a spot empty on the field, he would fill it; John was like that.

Even though I have only spoken with John a few times, he left a lasting impression.

Thank you so much for finding my soccer bag that day and thank you for getting Tom from the locker room for me on that fateful day. Was it just coincidence that I asked you out of all those people? Or was it just because you were the kind of friend I knew wouldn't mind doing it? Thank you for everything, but most of all, thank you for just being my friend.

John

BY ROB WINIKATES, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

John Yessayan was born on March 31, 1986; his life ended on October 4, 2000. Each of us who knew him — whether in classes, teams, or outside of school — saw him in a different way, but this is how I knew him. On Wednesday during football band practice, when I found out that he had collapsed, I believed that everything would work out all right. I thought that he would be joking about it with us the next day; he'd tell us how cool it was in the hospital. However, we were not that lucky.

John loved sports and he loved life. He and I were on soccer teams together when we were only four years old. He was always at the soccer field either refereeing for the younger leagues or playing for his team. He was the best goalie in the league; anybody will tell you that. Moreover, we cared about good sportsmanship. After a game, whether he won or lost, he would be the first in line to shake hands with the opposing team. I regret never being able to see him play

football, his other passion, but I believe that he brought the same positive attitude to it.

He and I had several classes together last year, and we became good friends. One time I called him for a vocabulary list, because we had a test the next day, and I had forgotten my book. He was cooking franks for himself and his little brothers, and he spilled ketchup all over his Latin book. But instead of getting upset, he just laughed and said, "those were some pretty damn good hot dogs."

John's locker was right next to mine last year. He had a leather jacket that one of our friends used to pretend to steal. She would take off wearing it, and John had a hard time getting it back since she runs track and he had a fractured leg. It was all in fun, and he showed me that sometimes there are faster ways to retrieve a jacket (or my hat) than chasing after it. This memory will always remain with me.

He also used to wear different gold and silver watches. One day I had forgotten mine, and he had an extra with him, so he lent it to me without a single question about

my giving it back to him. He also would show off the fact that the size of his watchband would fit around a classmate's neck.

At his funeral, one of the speakers said that John was persistent, persistent, and persistent — and she was right. Even when John's leg hurt, he would still dive for the ball in goal. He never gave up. When he had to give a declamation in Latin he practiced until he really knew it all.

John Yessayan was just about the nicest kid in our grade. John always cared for other people, and now we all need to care for him. He cannot give people the gift of his presence anymore. Therefore, we owe it to him to care just as much as he did so that others can learn from us, as we learned from him. If we can accomplish this he can live on through all of us and our actions.

Donations to the John Yessayan Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made through Coach Paul Costello.

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

Pack Bombs Blue, 14-0

BY GREGORY PORTER, I
SPORTS EDITOR

On a cold and blustery Thanksgiving morning, hundreds of faithful Boston Latin fans, young and old, watched the final seconds tick away in what was to be another Wolfpack victory over Boston English in the longest running rivalry in the U.S.

While the crowd wanted the game to be over quickly so they could be relieved from the cold, the game could not have been slow enough for one man.

For Coach Paul Costello, these were to be the last seconds of his career. After 30 years of pacing up and down the sidelines

as the Wolfpack's head football coach and standing outside everyday after school to make sure each team bus arrived, Costello is calling it quits.

"It was a very emotional season, a very emotional day," said Costello after the game, surrounded by all of his players. "It's tough to give it up, but these kids played great today. It was important for them to go out winners."

During the days leading up to the big game, Costello told the team to "not just

win one for the gipper, but to win it for themselves." Such an action proved impossible on Thursday November 23, 2000, a day which the Boston City Council declared Paul Costello Day and which gathered several hundreds of alumni and former players making the trip to say goodbye. As senior tailback Dan O'Reily put it, "We knew that we had to go out there and win that game for him."

From the looks of things in the first half, winning did not look like it was going to be easy for



Latin. English's offense moved the ball down to Latin's 16-yard line twice in the first half. Senior T.J. Hannon's interception and a failed fourth down

conversion thwarted both scoring attempts.

Latin's lack of offensive power this season showed in the first half, but the team went into the locker room at halftime with the lead after senior quarterback Jon Speranza rolled out of the pocket and found senior tight end Keith MacDonald in the endzone with just 17 seconds to go in the second quarter. Senior Tim Swain added the Pack and Latin was in the lead to stay.

"I ran out a route where I ran inside (PACK, continued pp. 16)

BLS Makes MCAS Grade

BY GUY DEBROS, I
& LEAH MURPHY, III
STAFF WRITERS

Boston Latin School is again making headlines, for its success on the MCAS. Yes, BLS is once again the highest-scoring school in the statewide Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System in both 8th and 10th grades.

News crews have recently been visiting the school filming the students and teachers who have earned the title for our school. The BOSTON HERALD published an article in which Boston Latin was hailed as the victor. However the rest of the Boston Public School system did not fare so well.

The MCAS consists of four sections: math, science, history, and English. The science section is not required for graduation and is not counted when schools are ranked, although scores on the section are returned to students. Each section consists of a number of multiple choice questions and open-ended questions. The English section, instead of open-ended questions, has a section in which students must write one or more essays.

The first MCAS was administered in 1998. Many claim that it was much too complicated and that it took too long to finish. The MCAS as we now know it was first given last year. The MCAS for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 were test-runs. In 2001, however, a passing score on the MCAS will be a graduation requirement. Much fuss is being made about the class of 2003, as this will be the first class required to pass the MCAS in order to graduate. Many people fear that this will force some students to drop out early

because of the pressure placed on them by the test.

Critics of the MCAS claim that schools must "teach to the test" so that students will be more prepared to earn a higher score. This claim has been justified here at BLS. Sophomores in the past have taken a computer literacy course; they must now take another year of World History to ensure a better score on the MCAS.

The student run organization SCAM (Student Coalition for Alternatives to the MCAS) has also been making the news. Protesting on the steps of the Massachusetts State House and making petitions to be signed by students, the organization has raised a few eyebrows. Foes of the MCAS have again threatened to boycott the test, although the fate of those sophomores who avoid this critical requirement for graduation is still unknown.

The Massachusetts Teachers Union has started an advertising campaign to encourage an alternative to using the MCAS as a graduation requirement. Possible solutions include using student portfolios and grades from other national tests like the SAT and SAT IIs.

Boston Latin School as a whole has surpassed both the city and the state in scores on the 2000 MCAS. What makes our school stand above all others? Headmaster Kelley says that it is because we are the best. The tradition of excellence in our school is embodied in the success we achieve. As students who took the MCAS last year patiently await their scores and as the Classes V and III anxiously await their tests, the Boston Latin community can safely say, "Sumus Primi."

School Improvements: An Interview With Ms. Kelley

BY QI FENG, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Way back in the pre-construction era of 1995, city inspectors cited the Boston Latin School library as inadequate for students' needs and mandated the administration to remedy the problem. Quickly. The near-loss of that accreditation was the catalyst for sweeping changes, from the addition of the West Wing to the implementation of the Whole School Improvement Plan (WSIP). This plan calls for renewed instructional focus and frequent communication between BLS teachers and outside sources, from the College Board to London's Globe Theater. The school is now in the second of three improvement phases.

Naomi Gordon has been ushered in as the new Literacy Coach to oversee many of the changes. She was hired on account of her experience and credentials in English Language Arts, particularly at the secondary school level. She brings with her the quality of great enthusiasm and the impartiality of an expert from outside the Boston Public School System. Most importantly, says Ms. Kelley, "She appreciates our model for excellency." Ms. Gordon's duties include meeting with individual teachers in planning conferences in order to develop and implement a range of strategies to enhance literacy across the board.

Working with her is the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT). This panel consists of administrators, program directors, BTU representatives and two parents. Presently, the group is going through treatment to "ensure they are keeping the current standards." Ms.

Kelley says that, as with anything else in this school, "teamwork is the key." Monthly update meetings with both the Literacy Coach and the Headmaster are among the ILT's roles.

With such a comprehensive plan, there are bound to be financial constraints. Part of the money comes from Superintendent Payzant's Focus on Children Plan. As Ms. Kelley explains, "We have to meet the guidelines to get the money." Because of BLS' high test scores, the school does not receive much in terms of city allocations. Ms. Kelley admits that there is always a need for additional "professional development" funding. Thankfully, corporate partners such as State Street Bank have stepped up to the plate and provided grants to expand the tutoring program.

WSIP depends on cooperation on the part of the school community. As always, students need to come to school well-prepared and focused to ensure the plan's success. In addition, Ms. Kelley stresses that "parental responsibilities go beyond school walls" and adds that "active involvement" is a prerequisite, as are a "quiet environment in which to study and the right tools." Above all, BLS must protect its reputation of being the best.

In January and February, the school expects in-depth-review teams on three random days. They will judge BLS' strides to improve against the rubrics. However, the visit will be more of an evaluation than a critique. "It will raise awareness of what we do to achieve high standards, re-focus teaching strategies, and [call attention to] additional professional development," sums up Ms. Kelley. This time around, they won't find any problems.

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| News BLS ALUM MAKES IT TO THE TOP -- OF THE AUDITORIUM! Page 3 | Editorial COFFEE DEBATE PERCOLATES! Page 10 | Forum ABORTIONS, BALLOT QUESTIONS, AND CUBA! OH MY! Page 7 | A&E "IN THE WHITE ROOM. . ." PRIVATE EYES HITS BLS Page 11 | Sports ONLY 352 SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL PAUL COSTELLO DAY 2001! Page 16 |
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Editor's Note

ARGO HOLIDAY MESSAGES

Mein Schatz - Merry Xmas Let's have a happy new year w/ new beginnings - me

MERRY XMAS - L.S., A.N., K.P., T.J.F., V.C., J.M., J.G., N.B.,

K.N., M.C., M.M., LAH, SV, MT, SS, SK, RL, AND KY!! YO YOU GUYS ARE SO AWESOME! <3 ALWAYS - WE LOVE YOU GUYS!! - NIA AND LIS

Merry Xmas 2 Anne, DM, Sean, SK, RM, LF, DPW, RD, EOK, BH, ML, AM, RC, LAH, VT Happy New Year! MD

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY TARA AND SIMON God Bless Much Love "To" Everyone Else! HAPPY

HOLIDAYS Love CHELLE

MSV - Remember Me. Have a Merry Christmas and New Years TQM AEBBCR

Ryan Stole My Pen! Oops Minica Did It Again! 123 Bye Betty! S - You Aren't Thirsty! Hap. Hol. - EOK

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO UGO AND MATT FLAKES! GOOD LUCK BOYS BASTKETBALL!! FROM KANDI GIRL!

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR CLASS! MUCH SUCCESS & LOVE 2 U! KANDI

Merry X-mas! NB, KJ, HR, FM, BZ, VA, AW, and the whole cru! When are you coming for some "merry" apple juice?? Love, Gina

swiftkicker
hot chicks dig us
saugus hates us
oi to the world 2000!

Happy Holidays to everyone I promised a holiday message to. Especially you!

-Andy

To Caroline Gaudet, the most unique person in the senior class- May the holidays bring you warmth!

-Becca

Ask The Argo

Q. Why did Joe Coffey and the other topless Latin football fans get kicked out of Nickerson Field on Turkey Day?

A. I'll hit you if you ever say "Turkey Day" again.

B. Who knows? I guess that rent-a-cop who nabbed 'em must have been a disgruntled graduate from the distinguished English High School.

Q. So, I hear this guy Mr. Montague is getting a ton of kids into college this year?

A. Yeah. He's a pretty cool guy.

Q. I like to press my face against the windows once in awhile, how does that work to my advantage in the college admissions process?

A. Um... some schools have scholarships for students with disabilities. Do some research on it.

Q. Why did more people go watch *Blair Witch 2* instead of *Charlie's Angels*?

A. Gore over Bush.

Q. In one word, I want you to describe this election debacle.

A. Unpresidented.

Q. We all know about W.'s problems with alcohol. But what is on Al's record?

A. He's a chad molestor.

Q. In the midst of all these presidential dooey hooeys, what does President Clinton have to say?

A. "Could you define 'leave office?'"

Q. Are you aware that we have a celebrity look-alike in the faculty?

A. Oh yeah, Mr. Luis played the stunt double for Mr. Miagi in "The Karate Kid, Part III"

B. Mr. Luis is also an actor in his own right ... the back of his head was featured in the indie movie "Blue Diner." Check it out some time.

Q. Are the water pipe problems fixed yet?

A. Are all the bathrooms open yet?

Q. What's the name of Andy's band again?

A. Ah, yes. That would be swiftkicker.

Q. My, they're talented.

A. Sexy, too.

Q. Where's Rolo?

A. Inside each and every one of us.

Q. Ew.

A. Yeah, no kidding.

Q. What's Rolo gonna think about that last joke?

A. Editor Rebecca Tumposky, hiding out in her Rolo-proof bunker, could not be reached for comment.

Q. Why is Ask the Argo always on page 2?

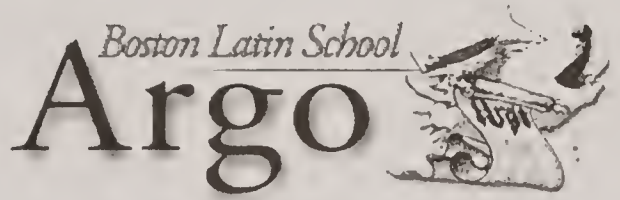
A. No one reads past page 2. In fact, you stopped reading fifteen minutes ago. Give it up, you're not fooling anyone.

Q. Please print some funny words to kill space.

A. Monkey, spindle, vibraphone, Johnny B. Greene, titmouse, dickey, spackle, Weeble, chortle, spank, diaper, insert, George, chad, pregnant chad, hanging pregnant chad, hardcore!

Et Cetera

Visit the Argo on the Internet at: www.blsargo.org



Boston Latin School
Argo

Founded in 1970

The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents and alumni. The expressions, suggestions and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editors. The Argo reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

The Argo is produced as an extracurricular activity. Typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to editors@blsargo.org, given to Andrew Barr, 101, Rebecca Tumposky, 136, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the main office

- 1998 Suffolk University Excellence in Sports Writing Award**

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award
- 1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award**

1996 3rd Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition

1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

Hardcore Copy Editing Contest, Round 2!

Congratualtions to Stevie McBimbles, Class VI, for winning the Official BLS Argo Copy Editor's Challenge. He correctly identified 74,812 typographical errors in the last issue, making him this issue's honorary Copy Editor ... Attaboy, Stevie!

So to all you argophiles out there, keep your eyes peeled, and your red pen uncapped, and you might just experience the glory of being ... Honorary Copy Editor!

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Libby
Brian
Mr. Flynn

Wade McCree Honored On Assembly Hall Frieze

By JIE SONG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They are the inspirations to a freshman stepping across the threshold for the first time; they are the silent audience that awaits a public declaimer; they are the eyes that admonish the bulb-counters; and they are the smiles of success for those graduating seniors who cast backward glances. They are the names of the most accomplished Boston Latin School alumni inscribed on the sacred frieze of the BLS auditorium. To this list of thirty-seven immortals, a new name was added last spring; it was the name of Wade Hampton McCree Jr.

A graduate of the class of 1937, Mr. McCree was a groundbreaker in his pursuit of excellence. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Fish University in 1941. After four years of service in World War II and four more years at Harvard University, Mr. McCree became the first African-American to be appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan by President John F. Kennedy. In 1966, five years later, he became the first African-American judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit and later, in 1977, the second African-American solicitor general. After four years of service as Solicitor General, Mr. McCree became the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, a position he held until his death in 1987. As Solicitor General, Mr. McCree personally argued 25 cases in the Supreme Court, including *Whitewater* and the *Bakke Reverse Discrimination* case. Furthermore, he established the Interracial Friends School of Detroit in 1965 to give to more children the right to an education. He also helped to found the Higher Education Opportunity Committee which recognizes exceptional middle school students and grants them college scholarships.

These are only some of the outstanding accomplishments that illuminate the life of Mr. McCree and qualify him for a position on the BLS frieze. However, in an article that appeared in the November 12, 2000 issue of the *Boston Globe*, journalist Tony Hill severely criticized the manner with which Boston Latin School treated the

commission of the inscription and the ceremony that honored it. Some of these statements include the claim that the decision for the inscription was a “grudging acknowledgment” made after a “two-year struggle.” Also, Hill claims that the reception of Mr. McCree’s name ranged from “very cool on the part of acting headmaster ... her predecessor ... and the school superintendent...to positively arctic from some leaders of the Latin School Association.” Hill partially places blame for the “cool” reception on former headmaster, Michael Contompasis, for he “favored leaving the space blank so that his students might, as he annually encouraged them to do, imagine that the hard work the school demanded of them might become the foundation for lives and careers that someday might make them worthy of such recognition.” Furthermore, Hill accuses Boston Latin of disclosing the decision “in a peculiarly low-key ceremony” by presenting the ceremony during the annual Prize Declamation event and by not informing its students beforehand.

To these accusations, Ms. Kelley, during an interview, made a firm denial. First of all, Ms. Kelley states, “There were no doubts at all, no question whether [Mr. McCree] was an extremely worthy candidate ... in some respects more distinguished than the others up there. The decision never took two years; it was nine to 12 months, for it came under my term, from the time it came forward to the time it is finalized.” To Hill’s claim of a “low-key ceremony,” Ms. Kelley said that “Judge Elam (who made the recommendation to inscribe Mr. McCree’s name) was offered several choices, and he chose the Prize Declamation in May



because it is the first major function of BLS faculty and members after the affirmation and that it coincided with Alumni Weekend.” In addition, the upper classmen and parent contingent who were invited “were informed of it ... it was announced in the bulletin days before the ceremony, and programs that included this event were handed out during the prize declamation.” Ms. Kelley also has a letter from the daughter of Wade McCree. In it, the latter speaks on behalf of the McCree family and expresses gratitude toward BLS for the “beautiful presentation.” As for the issue that Hill raises concerning Mr. Contompasis, Ms. Kelley clearly stated, “Mr. Contompasis was never interviewed. There was always an intention to leave a space for the purpose of inspiring the students. This shouldn’t matter because even after the inscription of Mr. McCree’s name there will still be room for a blank.”

In conclusion to her remarks, Ms. Kelley commented, “The article is completely false. It only paints one side of the picture and included no people from the BLS faculty, the BLS administration, or the BLS Association.” Ms. Kelley sincerely hopes that all students regard Mr. McCree as a model of excellence, for he “took what he learned here to serve the common good and the society. He was a force for good and tried to make life better for all the people with whom he came in contact. He carried himself proudly and was a true and devoted son to the Alma Mater. He deserved this accolade absolutely, and everyone agrees.” Furthermore, Ms. Kelley hopes that the students not take on the article’s point of view, “[BLS] works hard on diversity and to have an article like that just undermines all we are trying to do.”

Changes In Store For BLS Library Media Center

By CAITLIN GILLOOLY, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One part of the ongoing construction that will be most beneficial to BLS students will be the Harry V. Keefe, Jr. ‘39 Library and Media Center.

The new 12,000 sq. ft. library will be about six times larger than the space the library currently inhabits. The facility will occupy the space left by the former cafeteria as well as some adjacent faculty offices.

The ample space will allow for several new features in the school building such as a workroom, an office, two computer labs, and a classroom with state-of-the-art presentation facilities for special lessons and demonstrations.

Thankfully, there will also be more seating available. The Keefe Library will accommodate over 200 students at a



time as opposed to the 60 held by the current library. Two classroom areas have been set aside for reservation by teachers. As a result, students who need to complete independent work during studies will no longer be shut out when the library has been booked.

Any work done in the new TV Studio, located in the basement where the storage room had been, can be fine-tuned in rooms for the post-production of films. The design also provides small conference rooms where students can work on group projects.

In addition to the good news, there is bad news. Because the classroom space currently occupied by the library is needed desperately during the renovations, the library will temporarily be squeezed into two classrooms. During February vacation, the computer lab will move to room 312, and the rest of the library will move to room 319. Clearly, the library’s entire collection will not



fit into one classroom, so it is most likely that only reference books will be available for student use. However, if you know that you will need a certain book before the year is up, you can reserve it now and keep it for the remainder of the year.. Be sure to reserve any books you need before January 15, when the librarians will begin packing the books away.

Ms. Pat Howkinson, one of the school’s Library Media Specialists, feels that the new library will be worth the wait despite the inconveniences caused by construction and relocation. She assured the *Argo*, “This will be the best high school library for teaching and learning in the 21st century.”

Visit the library online at <http://bbsargo.org>

Rodents Run Roughshod ‘Round Room, Raise Ruckus

By MATTHEW ERLICH, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It’s first period on a Tuesday morning. The students are deeply focused on a heated debate in Facing History and Ourselves. A weary student in the corner gazes to the floor and sees a mouse scampering across it. The shrieks of several students immediately follow this.

This is becoming an all too familiar sight in room 104 and several other rooms in this school. For the past several months, the corner of the school around 104 has become the habitat for countless numbers of mice. In room 104 alone there have been at least three sightings of live mice and three others have been found dead. Seven or eight mice have been caught in rooms 307 and 308. Other locations of sightings have included: the Nurse’s Office, the Registrar’s Office, 107A, the library, 120, 032, and even the language lab. These

sightings include mice and/or droppings. A tale of mouse mutilation is also circulating. Rumor has it that in the language lab, a mouse was caught and brutally killed by a janitor.

Ms. Freeman has nicknamed the mice in her room “Adolf” and “Eva” after the Nazi leader and his wife Eva Braun. The appearance of these mice in both the German and Facing History classes, which take place in room 104, has led her to name them so. Ms. Freeman believes that when the Facing History classes read “Maus” the mice are sure to resurface.

So exactly what is causing this mouse problem? Apparently 104 is the site of many Parent Council meetings and community group meetings. In these meetings there is always food, some of which may be left behind for the mice. There are other hygiene problems as well. There have been periods during which we have had a shortage of janitors in the school due to absences. Thus, the cleaning schedule of rooms is often not met. The main problem lies within the construction. Earlier this year, a sub-sub contractor working

for the school left many wooden pallets up against the wall, next to 104, outside of the school. This created ideal breeding grounds for the mice as they are quite fond of crevices near walls. It also does not help that Simmons is under construction and the Harvard Medical school right across the street has begun construction as well.

What exactly is the school doing about it? It has hired a city-employed exterminator, whom Mr. Flynn has called “excellent.” He has made several suggestions, which have been implemented. The administration instructed Suffolk Construction to clean up all of the debris lying around the site. These were providing habitats and breeding grounds for the mice. Janitors have placed many glue boards in the corners and edges of rooms; they cannot use poison with students in the school. They have also plugged up many little holes and cracks because mice can and do fit into holes much smaller than an inch. However, these mice seem very comfortable and do not appear to be going anywhere anytime soon.

SCAM

BY NICOLE TABOLT, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the 2000 MCAS scores are being released to students and schools, the student-run organization Student Coalition for Alternatives to the MCAS (SCAM) is more active than ever.

Last year, SCAM received media attention for the organized boycott against the statewide standardized test. Over 300 sophomores boycotted the exam from cities and towns such as Cambridge, Brookline, Arlington, and Boston. “The media attempted to portray members of SCAM as students who were lazy and didn’t want to take the test; what we wanted to do was to raise awareness,” said Tim Kaldras, one of the boycotters.

Besides boycotting, the students also collected over ten thousand signatures to suspend the MCAS, founded chapters of the group in public high schools, and held a rally at the Boston Common on May 15.

For the 2000-2001 school year, the organization has set its goals even higher. It has established areas of focus: outreach, legislation, and public relations. The group, of course, has not lost sight of the goal to create awareness of the flaws of the exam and of the alternatives to it.

This November, Question 9 appeared on ballots in some towns. The ballot question asked citizens whether or not the MCAS test should be suspended. Although this ballot question was hypothetical, the results showed that citizens do want the MCAS exam to be suspended in cities like Cambridge. Before election day, November 7, SCAM members worked with the Cambridge chapter of Coalition for Authentic Reform in Education (CARE) to create awareness of the ballot question and its implications.

This collaboration of SCAM and CARE is only one example of SCAM making alliances with other groups. Recently, SCAM members have been attending meetings led by a group called People Organizing for Equity and Education Reform (POWE²R). POWE²R’s goals are to incorporate the community in education reform efforts and to bring more people of color into this process. Also, SCAM is working with the Boston Youth Organizing Project (BYOP), a student-run group that wants to organize students and other groups from around the city to discuss issues that directly affect the students, like the MCAS. All of these collaborations are being used to strengthen the grass-roots movement for equity in education.

SCAM held a press conference in front of the State House on November 21. Student speakers discussed their reactions to the release of statewide MCAS scores and the questionable graduation requirement. Students also explained that despite previous claims from the media, there is a suburban-urban connection. Samantha Johnson, II, pointed out that there are many students from Boston and other urban areas who share the same discontent for the test as do suburban students.

On the legal side, SCAM is reviewing proposed bills by groups like CARE and the Massachusetts Teacher Association. As a member of SCAM, Danielle Drummond, II, of Mattapan explains, “We are trying to do everything to have real education reform — that includes sponsoring bills.”

With their one-year anniversary soon approaching, SCAM is showing its continuous growth and maturation. They are showing the media that they do more than hold boycotts. However, they can only achieve their goals with the support and cooperation from organizations such as CARE and of course, determined students who are willing to go the distance for their cause.

French Encounters

BY ANITA YIP, III
COPY EDITOR

At the end of the 1999-2000 school year, students from Boston Latin School embarked on the experience of their lives. With Ms. Brun and Dr. Carroll leading this excursion, students spent one week in Paris and two in Strasbourg. They had a fun-filled day of organized activities and tours. The group did everything from sampling French cuisine to sightseeing on the Baton Mouche along the Seine River. They even went to the top of the Eiffel Tower. It gives a gorgeous view of the Sacre Coeur and the Arc de Triomphe, but it was even better up close in person! The Notre Dame nearby



stood out majestically. On the outside, it is a story waiting to be told; on the inside, it’s beautiful stained glass windows emit an aura in the dimly lit room. Besides marveling at these beautiful works of art, students admired the paintings in the Louvre, including the Mona Lisa. Even though the itinerary was packed, time was allotted for leisure activities. Students had the liberty to choose where to eat and where to shop. They went to numerous restaurants to eat and stores and malls to buy souvenirs to bring home. After all the day activities, they returned to the hotel to relax, take a snooze, and wait for the next day to come. However, this was only the first week, and much more was planned ahead.

Then the group flew over to Strasbourg on the second week. Upon arriving, they split up into their families. Students were paired up to a family to get the fullest immersion into French culture. They experienced everything to the fullest. They took a tour of the Palais de Rohans, the Parliament, Versailles, and the Route du Vin where wine is produced. They were also able to see the astronomical clock inside a cathedral, attend a cookout, travel to a park where they fed popcorn to monkeys, and of course, do more shopping all over the place. Moreover, as an added bonus, students went to Kehl in Germany. On certain days, students were allowed to stay at home with the family and do whatever they pleased. The students’ activities included hiking on the mountains, going to the movies, the pool, parties, and even Switzerland!

Everyone on the trip had a wonderful time. Progress was certainly made, and improvements were noted, but the experience itself was the best part of the trip. Students who might be interested in participating in next year’s trip can see Ms. Brun in 035.

Our Favorite



Fulton

BY NATHANIEL KOVEN, II
STAFF WRITER

This year, Richard B. Fulton has taken on a new position, the newly created post of Dean of Discipline.

Such posts are not new to Mr. Fulton (though Boston’s geography still eludes him). Last year, he served as the Senior Floormaster, and has been a history teacher for the past three years. This year, the new Dean of Discipline resides in a new office converted from the old copy room. The renovation project has lovingly renamed this small space “Office, Room 145.”

Though the name of his post sounds intimidating, Mr. Fulton is still the same warm-hearted, jolly fellow. Despite the stern nature of his new job, Mr. Fulton has managed to make disciplinary action associated less with evil. “Discipline needs not be negative,” Mr. Fulton said on this subject. “It is consequential. If this, then that. Grandma said, ‘Sure, I forgive you, but I’m still gonna punish you.’”

The post of Dean of Discipline was created to solve disciplinary standardization. In the past, no staff member has been specifically in charge of discipline. Each person who actually meted out punishment would give a different punishment for each offense: one teacher might give a misdemeanor mark for a given violation; another might give detention for the same crime; still another might give in-house. Often this meant that discipline was not fair. The new Dean of Discipline’s job is to equalize the penalties given.

Having a single person in charge of discipline is also a convenience. It is easy for Mr. Fulton to access a student’s disciplinary record because he organizes the records himself.

Besides being Dean of Discipline, Mr. Fulton also keeps lost-and-found clothing in his office. Any lost clothing (coats, shirts, jackets, shoes, etc.) is sent to him.

Mr. Fulton teaches only one class this year, a tenth grade World History class. In addition to the already -congested flow of traffic containing suspected rule-breakers and students in search of forgotten lunch bags, parents and students flock to his door every afternoon. The “Phat Boy” certainly has his hands full!

Alliance Between Writers’ Workshop, TAG

BY KATARINA YEE, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

For three weeks in July, mentors from the High School Writers’ Workshop woke up a little bit earlier than usual to partake in the Talented and Gifted tutoring program at the McCormack Building at UMass Boston. Each day, they worked with eager students for an hour prior to the beginning of the Workshop. Talented and Gifted, or TAG, as it is more commonly referred to, is a program designed for motivated Spanish-speaking students who are prepared to work hard in order to thrive academically. The mentors from the Writers’ Workshop were asked to aid in the improvement of the TAG students’ writing by using their expertise and leadership skills as they have done in the past with new writers at the Workshop.

Each of the sixteen participating mentors worked with two TAG students. Most of the students were fluent in English. However, there were a handful of pupils who did not know any English or were not as comfortable with their second language as the others. The Workshop members were grouped with their students based on their knowledge of Spanish and were given the privilege and trust of program coordinator, Siri Coleman, as well as the teachers, Mr. Alamo, Mr. Estepan, and Mr. Santos, to design their own methods and styles of teaching.

“It felt great to structure a curriculum for grade-school students with a creative aspect in mind,” states Brian Farnkoff, a senior at Boston Latin School.

Having been a part of the Writers’ Workshop came to be an advantage to the mentors. At the second of two introductory meetings prior to working with the students, the young leaders met to compile a list



of ideas to motivate students’ creativity. These writing exercises stemmed from prompts used in the Writers’ Workshop but were altered so that younger students would be able to understand them. Amy Cooper, currently a junior at ACC, used ordinary but powerful phrases such as “I remember. . .” and a prompt from frequent Workshop presenter, Lou Bernieri, “I am the one who. . .” to incite inspiration.

“After we had written them down, we took turns and made an original, oral collective poem,” she recalls. Brian took a different, but just as effective approach with his two students, Juan and Yesenia. Instead of focusing on poetry, he centered his tutoring on narrative writing.

“They learned the different perspectives of telling a story: 1st person, 3rd person, and 3rd person omniscient. Then we moved onto description, which was what Juan seemed to like; his creative side opened up more. When we discussed a few writing prompts, he decided to describe a monster, using words such as ‘flailing arms’ and ‘black poison,’” Brian remarks proudly. Other tutors had their students write letters, descriptions of themselves, and other drills for practice. Teaching Assistants, who were available to translate, aided several mentors. Others fared well having studied a few years of high school Spanish.

Overall, an alliance between the High School Writers’ Workshop and TAG was a fabulous experience and opportunity for both groups involved. The writers were able to use leadership skills learned and accumulated at the Workshop in a different setting, and the TAG students were able to learn many dynamics of writing. However, what made this different from other tutoring programs was that the young teachers were involved in what they were tutoring their students. They not only taught, but also participated, learned, and overcame obstacles with their students; they showed the meaning of going beyond, and being true leaders.

Class I Officers Outline Agenda for Class of 2001

President
Joseph
Coffey



Vice
President
Ena Hillaire



Secretary
Ashley
O'Brien



Treasurer
Kara
Keeley



“Every man dies, not every man really lives.”
-William Wallace

William Wallace made this statement centuries ago, but it remains true today. I believe we were put on this earth to discover and develop our strengths so that we may be able to make this world a better place than it was when we arrived. We, the women and men of Boston Latin School, were also put on this earth to help those people less fortunate than we by extending, challenging, and offering ourselves. We must take risks to live life and to help others. This means that a person, especially of Boston Latin School caliber, should not be afraid of mistakes or critics. Critics are people who can neither create nor be afraid to try. We are not critics. We are creators.

Robert Kennedy once said that one man can make a difference: “Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring these ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” The past graduates of our proud school, including Hancock, Warren, Emerson, Adams, and countless other names emblazoned in the auditorium, made a difference. They changed the world. They were creators. We must follow their example and meet the high standards and traditions which echo throughout this school. Remember that this is Boston Latin School. The building, the people, the teachers, and the courses might change, but the tradition, the spirit, and the responsibility of the Boston Latin School have remained steadfast throughout the years. This is Boston Latin School. The day does not end at 2:15. Each day, each year, each decade, men and women take to the athletic fields, to community service, to service government, to the orchestras, to the choruses, and now to the Black Box Theater., this is Boston Latin School. This is a tradition.

I thank you for the honor and privilege of being your Class President. I can assure you that I will work to the best of my abilities with my fellow class officers to represent you. I promise that we, the men and women of Boston Latin School, will remember these years, each other. ... and, like those graduates of the past three hundred and sixty five years, will become the tradition.

This year has been very stressful for all of us seniors. We all have our individual problems such as trying to meet deadlines for colleges and trying to graduate. As Vice President of Class 2001, I am trying to help seniors with issues that are not often emphasized such as community service, class unity, and senior activity. The class committee and I are working hard to make this a memorable year.

There were a number of seniors last year who were unable to sign out early with the rest of their classmates; they had not completed their community service hours. This year, one of my goals is to have all the seniors sign out early together. I have a list of community service projects that seniors who have not done community service activity can sign up for. I would like the seniors to feel they have actually changed someone else’s life before they graduate. I want the Class of 2001 to be remembered as a class of impact and change.

“I believe that anything is possible with hard work.”

The classes before us have strongly focused on being traditional. I want our class to focus on making a positive change. We wanted to have pep rallies this year, and it happened. I encourage this type of attitude, the attitude of determination. I feel that although the class committee is working hard, we cannot do it without your support. We need you to get involved because we are doing this for you.

I believe that anything is possible with hard work. This year, I will do my best to fulfill all that my role demands of me. I want to thank people like Mr. Keitt and Headmaster Kelley who help keep us going no matter how hard it may seem. I also would like to thank the Class of 2001 for electing me. I hope that I can be a part of making this year very different from the rest.

This article is supposed to be about what I plan to accomplish as Class Secretary this year, but what being Secretary is all about is what “you” guys want to accomplish this year. The reason I ran is not that I am a crazed Boston Latin fan (ahem, ahem). It is because I want to be able to give students a voice, especially since we all feel a little anonymous in this school sometimes. I know most of you are saying that the voice has not exactly been heard yet, but that is mainly because people have to want to get involved.

“People have to want to get involved.”

When there is a fundraiser, help out; when a class rep makes an announcement, ask a question to see if there is anything you can do; when you see me in the halls, give me some of your ideas for 2001. So far, I have been given ideas concerning dances and fundraising. Most of them are going to take off really soon. Working with Ms. Kelly, Mr. Keitt and the other class officers, I am sure we will make it happen. What I am really hoping for in the upcoming months is that the entire class could get involved and have their own ideas come into effect. Together with Joe, Ena, Kara and an awesome class committee, we really can get things done. It’s just a matter of putting everything together.

To all the Seniors of the Class of 2001:
I want to start by thanking you for instilling the confidence in me to carry out

“More \$\$ = More Fun!!”

the position of Class Treasurer. Our goal for this year is to raise as much money as possible. We are already well on our way, but we need everyone’s help with this. One of our major fund-raisers for this year is working at the Boston College Concession Stands (I know you’ve all heard this about a hundred times by now!) But I do promise that if you help us with this fund-raiser, then it will later pay off for everyone. Please see me as soon as possible if you would like to help out your fellow seniors. If we make as much money as we plan to, we will then have extra at the end of the year (More \$\$ = More Fun!!). We want to make this year unforgettable for everyone and fundraising will make it all easier in the end. Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions concerning potential sources of income, don’t hesitate to come see me.

I do want to thank everyone who is already involved, your help is really appreciated. Good Luck to everyone through the application process. I hope you are all lucky with the outcomes.

Legion XIV

By ANITA YIP, III
COPY EDITOR

On October 24, 2000, Legion XIV performed for class IV and III at the Mass College of Art. Performers Gaius Avillvs and Marcus Cassivs came dressed in Roman attire with their armors gleaming brightly, and their swords deftly handled. During the assembly, around 30 students of class III took part in an interactive competition. As if they were foot soldiers in the legion, they followed commands that were directed by a general. They also demonstrated war strategies and offensive and defensive tactics.

After the performance, they were quite exhausted. They were generous enough to take the time and sit down for an interview. They asserted that they

are not actors; instead, they prefer calling themselves “more like historical interpreters than just simply actors,” commented Marcvs Cassivs. Having been asked how they felt, they said with a chuckle, “Kind of hungry actually.”

Legion XIV has performed all over the world, including countries such as England, Denmark, and Scotland. They have already performed more than a thousand times and they take a different approach for each performance. Besides performing worldwide, they also take time off to do what they enjoy. Cassivs enjoys riding his motorcycle. They were behind-the-scenes in the movie “Gladiator,” reading over the scripts and making sure that their historical information was correct. They take delight in coming to America because the food here is great and the audience is not as uptight as it is elsewhere. What they miss back in England is their cup of tea with English breakfast. With their concluding remarks, they asked, “Why don’t Americans have kettles?” The world may never know.

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Forum

Anne Foley & Mimi Lai

The Electoral College: Nation's Foundation or Antiquated System?

BY ANNE FOLEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2000 presidential election has brought the Electoral College system into question. Under this system it is not only possible but it has also happened that a candidate can receive the majority of the popular vote but lose the election in the Electoral College. While some may claim that this calls for the removal of our “tired, old system,” I believe that this system works. To abolish it would be to undermine the very foundations of our nation.

From the very beginning, we have been a group of separate and distinct states united as one nation, the United States of America. Finding a balance between state and national rights has always been a point of conflict. Our first attempt at establishing a government after gaining independence gave a majority of the power to the individual states. It was clear that the states could not survive on their own, and that there had to be a centralized government. The real task was finding a way to balance the two. As a compromise for representation in national legislature, a bicameral system was set up where the Senate would have equal representation for every state and the House of Representatives would be based on population. In this way, each and every state would be guaranteed a fair say in the national legislature.

The Electoral College was set up on this same principle. A popular voting system would take away from each state the right to have a say in who would be president. With the combined numbers of representatives in the House and the Senate, an elector system was set up where each state would have its own presidential election and then send electors from the winning party to make the final vote. Thus, every state was guaranteed to have at least some small part in the decision-making process and states with greater population would have a greater say.

The history may be boring, but it makes sense. We are one nation, but we are one nation made up of fifty separate states, each with its own government. Thus, it is important that the Electoral College ensures that no state or group of states loses all chance of influencing a national election.

Opponents are quick to point out that this system undermines the ability of the people in the nation to make decisions. However, this is not the case. The people are heard, just divided up, then the results are pooled together. It makes deciding easier than using a popular vote.

Take, for example, this year's election. According to many state legislatures, if the state's winner has a lead of less than 1 percent, a recount will automatically take place. The popular vote in the nation as a whole had a difference of less than 1 percentage point. If the election was decided by the popular vote, then who is to say that, based on that fact, one or both major parties demand a national recount? Yet, under the Electoral System most of the states had a clear majority winner and the recounts were focused on one state in particular. Taking into account what happened there, I do not think that anyone would want that to happen on a national level. The Elector System acts as a safeguard against such scenarios.

No matter how much people dislike the Electoral College, it does have its strong points. It guarantees that every state has a say, no matter how small the state is. California alone may have more electoral votes than all of the Midwest, but if it makes South Dakota content to know that it got its two cents worth, then so be it. It also divides up the voting so that in a case like Florida in 2000, problems and discrepancies can be dealt with on a much smaller level. Some might say that this system causes nothing but problems and needs to be abolished, but the fact of the matter is that more often than not, it does not make a difference. With the electoral college in place, voter corruption and fraud is less likely to affect the ultimate outcome of a popular election, thus acting as a checkpoint to ensure that the election is conducted legally and fairly. Of course, that is another issue altogether.

BY MIMI LAI, II
FORUM COPY EDITOR

The Electoral College has been brought to the forefront of controversy during the recent election. Our forefathers created the Electoral College with considerations that do not apply in today's modern world. Furthermore, this antiquated system misrepresents the people by distorting the value of votes, and thus contributes to the prevalent feeling in this country that “my vote doesn't count.” The advocates of the Electoral College, however, insist that the whole point is to protect “the voices of the small states.” These advocates even go so far as to insinuate that the abolishment of the Electoral College would undermine our entire country and bring about a reign of anarchy. Such allegations are absurd and it's about time someone prove that keeping the Electoral College is just as ludicrous.

When our founding fathers created this electoral system, they did not have much faith in or consideration for the common man. They believed that the common man would not be informed enough to vote intelligently and would easily be led astray. In the insecure climate of the infant nation, their worse fears were that an uneducated populous would elect an unqualified demagogue into the presidency through a direct popular vote. Thus, distrusting of the individuals of society, the forefathers handed over the real voting power to a body called the Electoral College.

The 18th century mindset of our forefathers does not apply in our modern times. We now live in an information age where laptops and cell phones abound. If we wish to learn about a candidate's platform, it is no longer a matter of horseback riding to the nearest rally 374 miles away. Now it is a matter of a quick click on the Internet and grabbing a newspaper on the way to work. In today's world, information is ubiquitous. The common man no longer has any excuse to be uninformed or misinformed. We can judge for ourselves who will best serve us as a president. Hence, the Electoral College is an anachronism in our times.

Perhaps the real impetus for the forefathers opting for the Electoral College instead of a direct popular vote was because they needed a compromise. This compromise was between the states of high population and those of low population, largely between the North and South. The South, with its low population of whites, and high population of black slaves, was afraid of a direct popular vote because the more populous North would most likely control the presidential election. The southern states protested that this would be an infringement on their “regional interests.”

The advocates of the Electoral College are carrying on the torch of their southern predecessors with their whine of protecting “regional interests.” I ask this: What century do they think they live in? Someone should knock on their time capsule and remind them that we now live in the twenty-first century. We no longer have slavery. Suffrage is universal. What possible “regional interest” equaling the magnitude of antebellum slavery can the advocates hope to protect? People using this “protection” argument make it sound as if the removal of the Electoral College would be the destruction of “our cherished way of life.” This is preposterous, and borders on hysteria; people always seem to forget that the so-called states with special “regional interests” would always have their voice in the Senate.

We already live in an apathetic country where more than half of the people do not think their vote will ever count. With the current electoral system, they are probably right. In our own state of Massachusetts a Republican vote is virtually worth nothing. Massachusetts, historically, has always given its twelve electoral votes to the Democrats. Examining the current office-holders and the general political climate of Massachusetts, that trend does not look like it will change anytime soon. So why do Republicans even bother punching that ballot hole? They know that their contribution to the popular vote does not matter because the popular vote does not decide the presidency.

We need to abolish the Electoral College and re-establish the American ideal that every is equal and that every vote counts. This is not about the rights of the state, but the rights of the individual.



Forum Question

Recently there has been much controversy concerning the use of the Electoral College to decide the presidential election. Al Gore received more popular votes than George Bush, but as the Argo goes to print Vice President Gore seems likely to lose the election. The Argo asked a group of students representing a cross-section of Latin's students if they thought the Electoral College should be used to decide the presidential election.



“I feel that the presidential election should be based on the popular vote, because the candidate chosen ought to be the most popular candidate.”

— Anthony Hamad, I

“They both make sense because someone shouldn't lose if they get more votes, but the Electoral College protects the bigger states with more people.”

— Arianne Bunnell, II



“They should use the popular vote, because the candidate who gets the most votes should win.”

— Ximin Jessica Sun, III

“I think they should use the direct popular vote, because with the electoral college a candidate could get more votes and still lose.”

— Stanley Ohnoha, IV

No
Picture
Available



“I think that the Electoral College shouldn't be used because I think the vote should be taken straight from the people.”

— Louis Harris, V

“I think the popular vote should be used. More voters wanted Gore than Bush, so Gore should be the President.”

— Xin Guan, VI



It's Time to End Sanctions Against Cuba

By JONAH BIRCH, I
FORUM EDITOR

For four decades, the United States has held a crippling embargo against the socialist nation of Cuba. The United States has little worldwide support for this policy. The U.S. continually insists that the embargo is meant to force Cuban leader Fidel Castro from power, and to encourage a move by the Cuban government toward democracy. However, the embargo has not loosened Castro's grip on power, and has had a devastating effect on the Cuban people. Meanwhile, much more oppressive regimes, in nations that do much less for their people, do not face sanctions.

When Fidel Castro first seized power in 1959, he replaced the corrupt regime of Fulgencio Batista and the United States supported him. The U.S. quickly came to realize that Castro would not support U.S. companies in Cuba. Within a few years, Castro seized the holdings of all foreign companies and socialized all Cuban private property. He allied himself with the Soviet Union, thus turning Cuba into a Cold War battleground. By 1960, the US had placed an embargo on Cuba, barring its nationals from doing business with Cuba. This embargo was hardened in 1992 and 1996 through two new laws, known as the Cuban Democracy Act and

Helms-Burton Act.
The two recent additions to the



embargo do not seem to match recent US trade policy in dealing with "oppressive" governments. Recently, the United States has moved to normalize trade relations with nations such as China and Vietnam, known as two of the world's worst human rights violators. Cuba has, at this time, an estimated 300 political prisoners. China has tens of thousands. China forces its prisoners to do physical labor. Cuba does not. China uses torture against its prisoners. Cuba does not.

China is noted for its large number of extra-judicial killings. Cuba has none. Clearly humanitarian interests are not the difference in US trade policy in Cuba as compared to China.

Furthermore, the Cuban government has done some wonderful things for its populace. Health care in Cuba is free. Cuba has one of the most sophisticated health care systems in the world, although certain medicines are scarce because of the U.S. embargo. In fact, Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America. Cuba's educational system has given the nation a 96% literacy rate, second in Latin America. Cuba has more trained doctors, per capita, than any other nation in the Americas. Each Cuban is guaranteed a basic standard of living, and despite being one of the poorest nations in the hemisphere, there are lower levels of homelessness, AIDS, and crime in Cuba than in any other nation in the Americas.

The US embargo has not forced Castro from power, but it has had devastating effects on the Cuban people. The Soviet Union, before it fell apart, gave Cuba an average of \$6 billion each year, and also bought Cuban agricultural products, mostly sugar. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Cuban economy collapsed with it. From 1989 to 1994, the daily caloric intake of the average Cuban fell from about 3,000

to about 1,800. Since 1994, the daily caloric intake has increased to 2,300, yet the Cuban people remain dangerously malnourished. The standard of living of the average Cuban would be much higher if the richest nation on earth, the United States, would trade with the nation. If Cuba could sell its excess agricultural products and raw materials to the U.S., it could afford to develop its great unused natural resources, such as huge deposits of iron and coal. It is very difficult to refute that the poverty experienced by Cuba is at least partly a result of the US embargo.

With so many arguments against the embargo, why does the United States continue to enforce it? The answer is simple: the huge Cuban-American population of Florida, almost universally anti-Castro. Every US presidential candidate since the 1959 revolution has courted this bloc of voters (except perhaps Bill Clinton in 1992). Any suggestion of ending the embargo would be met by an uproar from the anti-Castro fanatics. The US embargo against Cuba does little but keep an entire country in poverty. Logically, it should be immediately rescinded. Unfortunately, with American politicians so subservient to the large Cuban-American population of Florida, the embargo seems likely to be continued.

"Marriage is SO GAY!" A Commentary on Civil Unions

By MELISSA LI, I AND ANKA WILK, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

What is the definition of marriage? Religious sources would define marriage as a holy union between man and woman. People with a more romantic mindset might define marriage as an official declaration of commitment and devotion between two people in love. In 1996, the Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton, defined marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife. Is this really the definition of marriage? This is the question that has spurred endless heated debates in America over the issue of same-sex unions.

In 1998, the state of Hawaii dismissed the nine-year lawsuit for gay and lesbian marriages because of an amendment to the state's constitution, which restricts marriage to opposite-sex couples. The amendment was ratified by voters 2-1. Last April, however, the Vermont legislature enacted the Act Relating to Civil Unions, which extends to gay couples the effect of every state law, regulation and court precedent that applies to married couples. The Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples seek nothing more nor less than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate mate and a lasting relationship.

Although not all gays and lesbians intend or desire to get married, it is important that they have the freedom to do so. Many important legal, economic, practical and social

benefits and protections flow directly from marriage, such as filing joint tax returns, the right for foreign spouses to reside in America, health insurance, etc. A civil marriage is the only way to legally define a relationship. Being legally recognized has powerful emotional consequences for couples, because society uses marriage to identify partners for everything from retirement programs to the simple right to be together in crisis

situations, such as in hospital emergency rooms.

Other countries have already recognized the importance of the equal benefits of marriage being extended to gay and lesbian couples. In France, a new law permits both heterosexual and homosexual couples to register their relationships with the government if they have been together for at least three years. This law allows the filing of joint tax returns, makes it easier for registered partners of French citizens

to immigrate to France, requires employers to make allowances for partners' vacation plans, and makes partners responsible for each other's debts. Germany has also recently passed a federal law that provides civil marriage for heterosexual couples and life partnerships for same-sex couples.

It is upsetting how long it has taken America to enact laws that grant gay and lesbian couples the same rights of marriage that straight couples have always had. It is even more upsetting to know that as of right now, only one state in fifty grants those rights. In terms of equality and justice, America has come a long way, but it still has a long way to go.



Criminal Voting?

By MARIE CAMDEN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On election day, as voters enclosed themselves in voting booths, they had to decide many of the state's controversial questions. One question that sparked debate was: should incarcerated felons be allowed to vote?

The question was not one to be thrown out for public opinion, then decided on later in the state legislature. The question proposed was an amendment to the state constitution. It has already been approved by both houses in the state legislature. The vote of the citizens was all that was needed to make it final. However, it was not that easy for the people to automatically side with legislature. Both sides have valid arguments. There are the people who oppose the question; they believe that every citizen has the right to vote, even while incarcerated. The group in favor of the question believes that those people were put in jail for a reason, and that their freedom should be taken away while they pay for their crimes.

While those who are against the question are correct in that many prisoners are United States citizens, they seem to overlook the purpose of jailing them. People are put there because it has been proven that they have harmed society; they are deliberately isolated from the community as a punishment for their crimes. So does it make sense that these same people are being allowed to cast votes which will directly affect the communities from which they are being isolated? While it is true that currently not many prisoners vote, that could change at any time. With the high number of incarcerated felons in the state, their votes could very well impact the results of an election.

Opponents of the amendment accuse its supporters of trying to tamper with democracy and unnecessarily changing the Constitution. However, Massachusetts is not the first state to propose this action. Currently, 47 other states in the Union prohibit convicted felons from voting while in jail. The bill responsible for the amendment was worked on for years. Finally, two years ago, a proposal was made that could be agreed on by everyone in the legislature.

On election Tuesday, the votes were cast by everyone, including those prisoners who wished to exercise their right, and the numbers came in. The majority of the people in Massachusetts agreed with the legislature. Voters may have struggled with their opinions before casting their choice, and there are surely many who are upset at the outcome. In the end, the people decided to change the constitution as they saw would best benefit their state.

The End of Homework?

By RYAN DIANGELIS, I
FORUM EDITOR

My digital clock seems to almost smile back at me, proudly announcing the time: 1:51. a.m., that is. As the minutes continue to tick away, carrying all hopes of sleep with them, I continue with my many homework assignments. A smarter person might have given up a long time ago. I, however, decided to persevere and finish everything before homeroom. What a concept. Sleep is overrated, anyway.

Nights like that are not at all uncommon in highly competitive schools such as Boston Latin. It is drilled into our impressionable minds from Day One of sixie year that homework is life. We learn to live it, breathe it, drink it, dream it. Homework comes with the territory — most of the challenge is keeping up with the mandatory three hours a night.

Etta Kralovec and John Buell understand our pain. In fact, they wrote an entire book about it, *The End of Homework: How Homework Disrupts Families, Overburdens Children, and Limits Learning*. The title alone is enough to make any high school student kiss Etta and John's feet.

In their book, Kralovec and Buell argue that homework as it is commonly assigned today is relatively useless. According to them, work should be done in the classroom, where students are forced to think on their own, without the help of parents or friends. There are no televisions, radios or telephones to distract the student. The classroom provides a learning environment that cannot be reproduced at home.

To test their theory, Kralovec, a philosophy teacher, taught her philosophy class without assigning homework. Philosophy was read in class, and students wrote all of their essays under the watchful eye of their teacher. At the end of the semester, students were asked

to comment on being in a class without homework. One student wrote, "You know, the weird thing is that we don't have any additional outside work, yet I feel like I actually think more. I really like working entirely in class because there are always people to converse with if you have questions, and other people contribute ideas that you might otherwise not think of. Also, since I'm a senior and I have so much work to do, like filling out applications and visiting colleges, the less homework I have, the easier my life is."

While homework is as much a way of high school life as football games and proms are, Kralovec and Buell have really hit the nail right on the head. Homework as it is often assigned is pointless; there is too much repetition and redundancy, it is too easy to copy or cheat, and it rarely is able to truly captivate the student, engage him in the material and force him to think openly. And there are, of course, other aspects of a student's life that also occupy the precious little time left after a full school day. Should family and social activities, which are as essential to a person's well-being and intellectual growth as homework, be brushed to the side while the student struggles through the last thirty math problems?

According to John Silber, Chancellor at Boston University, yes, they should. In an editorial for the Boston Herald, dated November 7, 2000, Silber argues that homework is not a foe, but rather a tool essential to the education process. His issue is that incompetent teachers are not assigning the correct type of homework. Good point, but if they were assigning the correct kind of homework — the type that is mentally stimulating and somewhat interesting — Kralovec and Buell never would have written their book.

So what's a hardworking student to do? Until teachers and school boards everywhere realize the mistake they are making in assigning tedious homework, grab another cup of coffee and plan on a long night.

Protection of a Right or Preferential Treatment?

By REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
Co-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Is the enforcement of a buffer zone for abortion clinic protesters protecting the rights of women having abortions or violating a first amendment right? U.S. District Judge Edward F. Harrington stated the latter in his recent ruling when he barred the implementation of a new buffer zone law until there is an outcome to the hearing that challenges its constitutionality. He concluded that because the buffer zone law would force protesters to keep a distance from women entering an abortion clinic, but would not keep clinic workers from approaching their patients outside, it would deny equal opportunity to pro-lifers who wish to express their views, and is thus unconstitutional.

Common sense says that the implications of a clinic worker approaching a patient to escort her inside are very different from those of an anti-abortion demonstrator who shoves his views down the throat of a woman about to make a very personal decision. Although controversial, in the United States it is a woman's legal right to have an abortion. The anti-choice demonstration that Harrington labels as free speech is more like intimidation and intrusion. Any woman who cannot care for a child and feels she has to terminate her pregnancy is likely to be in a somewhat fragile state. To allow "in-your-face" protesting in front of an abortion clinic is not protecting women's rights.

Eileen McNamara of The Boston Globe made an excellent point when she said "The first amendment provided a handy tool for the conservative Catholic jurist [Harrington] to promote his personal opposition to abortion and his support for demonstrators, expressing what he called 'their sincere message of respect for the sanctity of innocent human life.'" Harrington's words were pretty loaded for someone who feels strongly about not giving "preferential treatment."

Another important point McNamara brought up is that this is not the first time the law has provided that there be a buffer zone between protesters and the people they are protesting against. In fact, at both political conventions and at all three of the presidential debates, police kept demonstrators at a distance. An enforced buffer zone at a political convention protects the security of politicians in the same way that one at an abortion clinic would protect the security of women.

Judge Harrington put his personal position on abortion into the language of his ruling. He claimed that enforcing a buffer zone would be unfairly biased against those who are "pro-life;" in reality, not enforcing it is unfairly biased against those who are pro-choice. While freedom of speech is a constitutionally protected right, women entering abortion clinics should not have to deal with the verbal harassment that they experience today. Constitutional rights must be protected as long as they do not impinge on the rights of others. Judge Harrington's decision fails to consider the rights of women seeking abortions. One can only hope that this ruling will be overturned in a higher court.

Pot or Not?

By REBECCA ADAMS, V & MAX ESKIN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & FORUM LAYOUT EDITOR



Maybe you have already heard all you wanted to hear about legalizing marijuana. But considering that the citizens of California voted affirmative on a referendum question to legalize marijuana for certain medical purposes (mostly as a painkiller), similar things may not be that far off in the rest of the states. This is why now is an appropriate time to review the issues and understand why legalizing marijuana is indeed the better solution.

People who believe marijuana should continue to be illegal say that it is a "gateway drug," meaning that people who start with marijuana will likely go on to using other more powerful drugs. But this brings up the issue that people can actually get these other drugs whether they are legal or not. Approximately 12 percent of the American population are at least occasional drug users. If people really want to smoke marijuana, they are probably doing it already. If they don't want to smoke it regularly, but just want to try it, let them try it. Marijuana is not addictive and does not cause cancer like tobacco does. Let them smoke legally so that they do not run into debt with drug dealers, acquire adulterated samples, or spend the next few years of their lives in prison.

The prison issue is perhaps one of the biggest arguments for legalizing marijuana. More than half of the people in prison today are there because they were caught in possession of marijuana. Given that it takes as much as \$30,000 per year to keep a person in prison, this really adds up. Besides that, there are dangerous criminals on the loose because the prisons are overflowing with drug users. Courts and police departments are likewise bogged down by marijuana users.

We should have learned the lesson with alcohol. During the Prohibition Era, alcohol sales were made illegal, which caused an underground network of alcohol distribution to arise. Endless destruction by gangsters like the infamous Al Capone was the result. When the laws were repealed, the network collapsed. As with alcohol during the Prohibition, marijuana would produce very little crime if not for the drug laws. We are talking about a huge network of drug dealers that came into being just because the laws made it profitable for them to operate. If marijuana ever became legal, it would be possible to buy it in nine different fruit flavors at the local grocery store for five dollars, and the dealers would simply go bankrupt. No guns, no jails — a single sheet of paper signed and there will be no more marijuana dealers in the entire United States of America, just like that.

By now, it should be clear that the gain from prohibiting marijuana is far smaller than the resulting problems. It just does not make sense to keep this relatively safe drug illegal for the sake of some kind of hypothetical common good when there is so much common harm resulting from it. And as for the politicians who keep the drug illegal, one is tempted to ask, "What have they been smoking?"



Editorial Page

Good to the last drop!

Cup o' Joe



Dripping With Double Standards

By RHYS DUDENEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is early in the morning and the prospect of focusing on anything substantial is staggering. The only consolation to this depravation of sleep is the warm, smooth cup of coffee in my hands. Unfortunately I am spotted and a random authority figure wrenches the coffee away from me.

While this might seem melodramatic, any coffee drinker can relate to the feeling of having that one shot at a pleasant morning taken away. I understand that there is a rule against any food being consumed outside of the cafeteria. I am also aware that any food found outside of the lunchroom will be confiscated as outlined in the agenda book. While I

may be unhappy about such a rule, it is not without logic. By containing food to a certain area, it prevents infestation from various vermin. However, I see no reason to follow this rule if the faculty is not bound by it as well. While at risk of angering the offending members of the faculty, I feel that it is unfair to hold such a blatant double standard. It is stated in our agendas that teachers are expected to promote diligence through example. While wisdom, maturity and experience may come with age, there is no evidence I can see that proves that a teacher's eating abilities are superior to my own. I do not want to say that the rule should be discarded, only that the teacher who shakes his finger at me for having my morning cup of coffee should not be holding a cup of his own in his other hand.

Arcane Policies Leave Bitter Taste

By ANDREW BARR, I
Co-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in the cafeteria before school started, with a friend of mine who had just purchased her morning coffee from the falafel stand across the street. Sipping it, she realized that the lady at the stand had forgotten to add sugar. So I walked with her up to the "breakfast line," where she spotted the sugar sitting near the cash register. As she began to sweeten her coffee, the cafeteria staff member stopped ringing up students' breakfast purchases in order to wheel about and confront my friend. "What do you think you're doing?" she asked angrily.

My friend replied the only way she could. "Putting sugar in my coffee."

The cafeteria worker told her in a harsh tone that the sugar was for teachers only, and that she should have asked before using it. At this point, the student at the register began to tap his foot impatiently. "I'm sorry, you're right. Can I please use this sugar?" my friend asked, her coffee congealing rapidly.

"No. That's for teachers. Now please leave this area," the lady replied, turning back to her customer.

BLS does a lot of self-congratulating, and most of it is well-deserved. This is the best damn school in the country, or at least the BPS. We kick butt on the MCAS, we win awards, we get kids into Harvard, we get on the cover of *Redbook*. Speaking from personal experience, I credit my BLS education with just about everything good that's happened to me in the past five years.

So it really doesn't follow that so many students, seniors especially, just plain hate this place. They don't just hate it here; they actually harbor corporal loathing for the school and all its physical and administrative manifestations. How odd. Here are 300-some-odd grown men and women, ready to embark on a spectacular career, expertly trained and educated, lovingly prepared for college, and a large number of them want to torch

the building, or at least let it rot from lack of alumni donations.

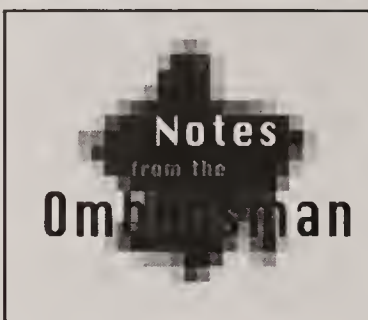
I used to think it was about the common teenage aversion to hard work and effort. And that aversion sometimes makes me not want to get out of bed, so I sort of understand that. But I've come to realize that there's some truth to the common complaints I hear, despite the multinational alumni effort to make us happy. "When I get out of here," a senior remarked to me this summer, "I'm not gonna remember the chandeliers and stuff. I'm gonna remember never having any [expletive] toilet paper." And, sadly, that's what a lot of BLS students will remember as they become rich and generally happy. No toilet paper.

Restricted Adult Sugar. Three minute passing time with no leeway for bathroom trips. Or in my case, being assigned a day of detention because my floormaster had wasted his time assigning me a detention that it was judged I never "earned." Pons Privatus all you like. It's an admirable campaign, but what's called for here is simple human consideration.

That's a commodity in short supply, it seems sometimes. Just this fall, a teacher put the Argo cabinet in her hallway with the message, "PLEASE THROW AWAY." Almost twenty years of Argo history was almost lost forever,

because a member of the English Department failed to ask us whether the cabinet with the Argo insignia was at all important.

Hey, I love this place. And I always cringe when my friends make violently angry comments about the school. But the way for these comments to cease isn't through a capital campaign or a new allegedly black box theater. The answer to many students' complaints is as simple as sugar for their coffee, toilet paper for their bathrooms, and a little understanding.



DIEGO MCCAFFERTY
OMBUDSMAN

Sigh. ...
Perhaps I didn't make myself clear in my last installment of the Argo's ombudsman article. The job of an ombudsman is to

report the complaints of the readers and to respond accordingly: Point out their validities and inconsistencies, help to make the world a better place, live happily ever after, etc. However, this is based in part ... actually this is based *entirely* on the **complaints of the readers**. Without their input, I am forced to, like last issue, write my own criticisms, which are comprised entirely of my own tainted opinions.

And who in my grand opinion is most deserving of the scathing vitriol of the wise and powerful Ombudsman?

The way I see it, there is only one position in the Argo that stands out amongst the others in its irresponsible journalism, lack of integrity and complete insipidity: that of the Ombudsman. In an attempt to maintain the objectivity of the following, I shall henceforth refer to myself in the third person singular.

Dear Argo,

After reading the latest installment of the Argo, an abysmal aggregation of articles if ever I've seen one (alliteration rules!), I was struck in particular by a reprehensible piece by a Mr. Diego McCafferty. Mr. McCafferty's article was a gross abuse of his power as Ombudsman.

For starters, Mr. McCafferty's rarely bases his complaints on facts, instead he seems to write pieces that he considers interesting and entertaining, and makes up fallacies where they are necessitated. He blatantly avoids reading the paper, preferring instead to base his wildly inaccurate, painfully awkward and embarrassingly pointless "opinions" on his limited cultural and social experience, which is composed mainly of Green Day lyrics and reruns of *Mad About You*. Mr. McCafferty proves himself hypocritical by reproaching the Argo staff for using their positions solely for the purpose of augmenting their college transcripts, when it is so obvious that he is doing the same. Mr. McCafferty's very job as Ombudsman is obviously an endeavor by the Argo staff to pad their meager table of contents. His trivial position, devoid of any real purpose, is designed to give the readers a false sense of power, in actuality attempting to make the paper seem more professional. Lastly, his writing style forgoes journalistic integrity in favor of unabashed and just plain inappropriate criticisms of people for whom he obviously just bears disdain (most probably due to professional jealousy), and therefore egregiously mocks. His jokes, when not entirely based on cynicism and sardony, are juvenile at best, using colloquialisms and run on sentences, and referring to trivial information in an attempt, albeit a poor one, to fill space.

In short, Mr. McCafferty is a terrible human being. I shall refuse to read the Argo until his services have been terminated, and may God have mercy on his soul.

Sincerely,
Diego McCafferty

It is the policy of the Argo, and more specifically the Ombudsman, to allow staff members to respond to personal critiques. Diego McCafferty responds:

I was under the impression that the Argo only allowed intelligent commentary. Obviously I was mistaken. What Mr. McCafferty fails to understand is that no one cares about his opinions, which consist basically of four-syllable words that he made up, and derisive criticism. Mr. McCafferty's memorandum is an embarrassment to the readers of the Argo, who have real complaints they wish to report on ... then again, since *no one* felt compelled to write anything, we had to publish this filth. As a personal message to Mr. McCafferty, in the future perhaps you could attempt to present yourself with some semblance of dignity and maturity. And for god's sakes, shut the hell up. You're making us both look bad.

Help make the Argo better by writing me at ombudsman@bbsargo.org. My time is a terrible thing to waste.

Submit editorials by sending them to editors@bbsargo.org. Make your voice heard!

Arts and Entertainment

Drama Club Brings Up “Black Box” Curtain

By Kaitlyn Jolly, I
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The cast and crew of *Private Eyes* had the esteemed yet grueling task of christening the “Black Box” Theater in the new building and at the same time, kicking off the 2000-2001 drama season here at BLS. They did a superb job. Under the direction of Rose Costello, senior and seasoned veteran, (see Arts Spotlight, page 12) this group worked miracles in the new space. The culmination of a strong core of actors, a supportive production team, a brilliant script, and a heaven-sent crew made *Private Eyes* a huge success.

Steven Dietz’s “dramedy” examines the dissolving line between reality and deception when actress Lisa Foster (Allison Jolly, I), and her director, Adrian Poynter, (Tommy O’Malley, I) fall into a six week love affair. This of course is unbeknownst to both of their spouses, Mathew Foster (Andrew Barr, I), an actor currently working on the same project, and Cory (Nicole Hogarty,I), who is moonlighting as a private investigator and a waitress, in an attempt to track her husband down. The play, within a play being about a similar case of infidelity, makes for some very confusing scenes. It is not until a key line or phrase is heard that the audience is able to figure out whether the previous action was in fact reality, a figment of the imagination, a snippet of the rehearsal process, or a session between and his well-spoken therapist, Frank (Faith Imafidon, III). The climax of the play occurs when Cory and Matthew concoct a plan of sweet revenge to finally pull the plug on their cheating spouses’ six-week actor/director fantasy. As an audience member, it took seeing the play three times before I understood everything, and I’m *still* not sure I have it all down. Its meandering plot line consists of three planes of action, which make this play difficult to decipher yet equally entertaining.

Possibly one of the most sophisticated and mature productions the Drama Club has ever backed, this play excelled in a myriad of ways. The small cast allowed both Rose and the

assistant director, senior Richard Lawson to work intensely with the actors to hone and fine tune the natural chemistry apparent on stage. It is this intrinsic energy that fueled many incredible scenes, namely the one in which Adrian, Lisa and Mathew confront each other, and question their relationships, brilliantly using the play and their characters as pretext. *Private Eyes* marks both Nicole Hogarty’s and Andrew Barr’s BLS acting debut, which they both jumped into with incredible confidence, and Allie Jolly’s second and very convincing stage appearance. Tommy O’Malley continues to be a staple the BLS stage, and Faith, who acted in last years’ *Adaptation*, shows great promise. We are undoubtedly looking forward to these five talents returning to the stage in the future.

The technical aspect of the show definitely had its share of hardships, it being the first to ever grace the stage of the acoustically backwards and un-wired black box theater. I

remember walking into a rehearsal, close to D-day, and seeing Devon Rueckner, techie extraordinaire balancing on a riser with a very long pole, trying desperately to focus a light, while Jacques Ledbetter (II) rushed back and forth between the booth and a giant speaker amending a sound error. (The soundtrack to the show created a seemingly perfect ambiance, with such classics as Tom Waits’ “I Want You” and “Lets Get It On” by Marvin Gaye.) Rebecca Pepp, the always reliable senior, did a quality job running the props, and Genivieve Shattow put together a very fitting ensemble of costumes. The tasteful set, centered around key pieces, such as the big, red bed was created by the award winning set designer, and lover of power tools, Douglas Le. Of course, the backbone

of the production team, stage manager Adam Finelli and ASM Marielle Anas did everything in their power to ensure a smooth run back stage, with the help of a wonderful crew consisting of Michael Chan, Caroline Gaudet, Emma Bayer and Lydia Downing.

This clever balance of comedy and drama with its mature subject matter and complicated format was a valiant task for Rose and co. to take on. But after two months of hard work, dealing with limited rehearsal space and time, the production went on virtually without a hitch (except for a missing gun shot or two). This fall, *Private Eyes* set a precedent for the year of drama ahead, that will be truly a tough act to follow.



MFA Exhibit Celebrates Art of the Guitar

By Sam Price, I
Contributing Writer

What a body, what curves, what a guitar! Did you know guitar manufacturers thought Les Paul was crazy when he had an idea for an electric solid body guitar or when John Lennon’s first guitar was ordered in the mail.

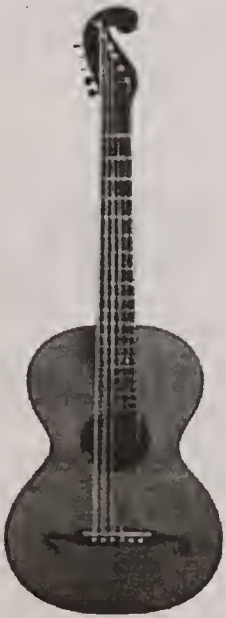
Everyone had to start somewhere and I advise you to start at the Museum of Fine Art’s guitar exhibit. Here the guitar is valued not just for its mellifluous melodies but also for its beauty as a work of art. Any guitar lover would love the life size pictures of guitar greats including everyone from the radical Jimmy Hendrix to the more conservative but just as talented Paul Simon. I felt like I was going to “Carolina in My Mind” when I discovered it was the one and only James Taylor coming through my head-phones and taking me through the evolution of one of the world’s most original instruments.

Each person was given a set of headphones connected to an electronic number pad, and each era of guitars was given a number. All I had to do was press the number on my pad that matched the number of a certain group of guitars and before I knew

it I was learning. I could almost hear the sounds of the string as my eyes bounced from King Luis’ tortoise shell guitar to the elegant standing harp guitars. I gazed in amazement at the five-neck electric guitar and simply wondered which neck I would use if I ever had the chance to play it.

If you have ever played a guitar or simply love the instrument, you would have been in heaven when you saw guitars so creatively crafted with ornate patterns made of gold, pearl and silver. In the next room the more modern guitars were displayed from the very first electric guitar to to the inflatable guitar one of the newest inventions. The inflatable electric guitar is one of most interesting creations I have ever seen. The creator of this guitar studied a fly’s wing and found that it carried sound waves quite smoothly. With this information he figured he would replicate the structure of a fly’s wing to create the guitar’s sound chamber. Sounds fly to me.

After my second time at this exhibit, I still couldn’t pick my favorite guitar (no pun intended), but what I did notice was that every guitar had a story. Whether the stories were about kings and queens or rock and roll legends, each guitar is not only a unique piece of art but also history.



Blue Man Group Rocks the Charles Playhouse

By Matthew Chan, II
Contributing Writer

It is not an easy task to describe or explain Blue Man Group to someone who has not seen the show. For those who have seen it, there is no doubt that seeing it once is not enough.

Blue’Man Group was created in 1987 by Chris Wink, Phil Stanton and Matt Goldman, whose oddball ideas have become an award-winning theatrical production. Their show, Tubes, stars three blue characters who explore the world. by engaging all of the senses and combining art, science and music. The creators have produced a show that is like nothing anyone has seen before, reinventing theater and music themselves.

Blue Man Group has expanded and perform in four cities now, with their most recent addition in Las Vegas. The large size of the theater and its advanced surround-sound system have allowed the addition of new material to the show. Their new acts only contribute to the surprise and wonder of *Tubes*. Music plays an especially large part in the Las Vegas show. Instruments such as the “backpack tubulums” and the “air poles,” which were developed for their debut album, *AUDIO*, have been added. The band, which originally consisted of three players, has now expanded to seven.

AUDIO delves further into the world of a blue man, with the emphasis on the music of the show. A large warehouse space was acquired in 1997, and a year later, Blue Man Group was finally able to record an album without the limitations of a theater.. Rather than being a soundtrack of the show, *AUDIO* contains new instruments and recognizable elements from the original show.

The result of all this is a unique sound resembling a type of “tribal rock,” a combination of polyrhythmic sounds and beats. The creators hope to have a DVD surround-sound mix out by Christmas.

Aside from the show, they have done commercials for *Intel’s* Pentium III Processors. These commercials, launched on October 9, feature the three men as they explore and interpret the world around them: in this case, the world of *Intel*. Commercials are an entirely new medium for Blue Man Group. It is free of the rigidity of a typical show, and so they were able to experiment with new elements. Three commercials are currently being aired, each one involving a sort of “accident” with one of the blue men. A fourth commercial is in the works.

Wink, Stanton, and Goldman were asked to write and perform music for one of the scenes in *The Grinch*. The director decided not to use it because he thought it would interfere with the comedy of the movie. However, a different version of the music was later used in the third *Intel* Pentium commercial. One of the actors of Blue Man Group also plays a number of different roles in “Who Duns in Whoville.”

Blue Man Group is a true example of what theater can be, and how an original idea can grow into an entire world of entertainment. Since their first performance, the reputation of the show has spread to people all over the world. As Adam Finelli, one of three wacky juniors who dressed up as a Blue Man for Halloween, said, “It’s so entirely different from anything else. There’s no way it can be directly associated with life because it’s very distinct, and that’s why Blue Man fever has spread everywhere.”

Arts Spotlight



Rose Costello

By RICHARD LAWSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I asked Rose a series of questions so I could get some quotes for this article, but she didn't answer them because they were "dumb questions."

Without any protest I stopped asking. I suppose I did this because I know Rose has an ear for good dialogue. Perhaps this is why she chose to direct the intricately worded, rapid-fire play *Private Eyes* for BLS this Fall.

Private Eyes was Rose's first directing experience, but not the first play with which she has been involved. Having been a member of the JP talent factory (the Freelance Troupe) from ages the of 8 to 13, Rose started young in theatre

NOT ONLY IS ROSE A
DRAMA GEEK, SHE'S
ALSO A CHOIR CHICK.

and has not stopped loving it. A member of the BLS Drama Club since 8th grade, Rose, now a senior, has acted in productions of *The Romancers*, the *Compleat Wrks of Willm Shkspr (Abridged)*, *The Crucible*, and the ill-fated *Marvin's Room*. She worked on the technical aspects of *Trial of God*, *WASP*, and the award-winning *Adaptation*, for which she stage-managed.

For the past three summers, Rose has performed with the Publick Theatre's Project Shakespeare, a youth theatre group that produces two Shakespeare plays every summer. Some favorite roles include Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. Project Shakespeare has greatly deepened Rose's love for theatre; and she plans to pursue it seriously in college and beyond (as a double major in Theatre and Political Science).

Not only is Rose a drama geek, she's also a choir chick. Rose has sung with school choirs every year since 2nd grade. She is currently a member of the BLS Show Choir, with which she not only demonstrates her superb alto voice, but also her "unique" dancing style. Outside of school, Rose has been a member of the Handel & Hydan Tremble ensemble for 4 years. She is proud of her work with the ensemble, which has helped her technique and taught her to appreciate classical choral music. One regret about the ensemble however, is that she wishes more people would come to their performances. "No one from school ever comes!" she laments. For all those interested in making the poor girl happy look for listings for a performance this May.

While juggling school, her various extracurriculars, and sleep, it is a wonder Rose has any time to relax. In her free time she enjoys watching teen melodrama (Dawson's Creek, DeGrassi Junior High) and continuing her never-ending search to find the perfect winter hat. "Why is that taking so long?" I ask. She throws her head back dramatically and replies in a sing-song voice "That's a good question."

BLS Drama to Present Interview

By JEFF MULDOON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The BLS Drama Club and Centre Stage Productions is producing *Interview*, directed by Jonathon Gass (Class I) for its winter play. This show will be taken to the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild, an annual festival of the best highschool theatre in the state. Last year the BLS production of *Adaptation* advanced to the semi-final round of the guild and returned home with many acting, set, lighting and production awards.

Interview, by Jean-Claude van Itallie is an ensemble piece that explores urban isolation. Its hauntingly realistic depiction of personal relations and inner conflict will be sure to captivate a public audience as well as that of the guild.

This creative, comedic and blatantly realistic play will be performed in early March. As an established theatre critic, I can officially say that Mr. Gass' production of *Interview* is something to look forward to.

Attending the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild is an annual tradition for the Drama Club. In the past Latin has brought home the distinction of winning the preliminary round two years in a row. This year, Jon hopes to meet if not surpass the success of last years production. He is confident that his incredibly talented cast and crew will accomplish much in the next few months leading up to the guild. Jon will be working with Tommy O'Malley as assistant director and Rebecca Pepp as stage manager. Look forward to this up and coming production and wish the cast and crew good luck, because this year they're gonna blow some socks off!

Coming Attractions ...
Jacques Ledbetter

By ADAM FINELLI, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You may have seen Jacques Ledbetter on Halloween as a Blue Man, catching marshmallows, giving you strange looks in the hall and doing everything he could in order to blab your knotbrak. This knotbrak-blabber has brought much talent to BLS, and there is more to come. Jacques came to Massachusetts from North Carolina in 1998 and entered BLS as a B-sie. "At first," he said, from a hotel room in New York, where he is shooting his latest movie *Requiem for a Sound Cue*, "I thought of BLS as exciting, but now it has become an exponentially developing misery biscuit." That is to say, with the exception of his experience with the BLS Drama Club.

Last year, Jacques auditioned for and made it into the cast of *Marvin's Room* as Charlie, a role which he was very excited about and with which he would have done a great job if the play had gone on. He was also involved with



The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe. This year he took part in, and produced BLS's Halloween production of "Blue Man Group," an event which has been the highlight of the year for him. In November, Jacques was the Sound Designer for *Private Eyes*, his first BLS Center Stage production. Currently, Jacques is practicing his percussion skills for the Drama Club's original show, *Mask*. What are Jacques's plans for the future? Later this year, Jacques hopes to audition for the Guild play.

Jacques artictic talents are not limited to drama. He is the main tuba player for the BLS Senior Band and the BLS Football Band. He has a great interest in music which he explores through this unusual, and unusually large instrument.

In general, he wishes to get involved with theater and music at BLS as much as he can. As for the future beyond BLS theater, music, engineering and many others are all options for Jacques. Look out for Jacques throughout the halls of a soon-to-be knotbrak-blabbed education brick.

Faith Imafidon

By ROSE COSTELLO, I
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

Spunky. That's the word that comes to mind when I think of this 5' 2" powerhouse of dramatic talent. Faith Imafidon started blowing BLS audiences away last winter with her performance in *Adaptation* when she was merely a freshman. Although her parts as the after dinner speaker and Jalene, Phil's black friend, were small, her natural ability and discipline shown through. Having worked with her both on *Adaptation* and this year's *Private Eyes*, I can honestly say that Faith's energy and love for acting are unmatched by practically any other actor I have ever encountered.

Last summer Faith was a member of the Boston Children's Theater Stagemobile. This program gave her a lot of experience and a chance to hone her craft. The Stagemobile program travels around the city performing in nontraditional venues to audiences of



children. One of Faith's most memorable performance experiences ocured when the Stagemobile performed in Copley Square and she received an unexpected singing solo. "What a rush!", this fifteen-year-old actress says of the occasion.

Some of you may have seen Faith earlier this fall in *Private Eyes*. She played the role of Frank, the logical psychologist who acts as a foil to the paranoid Matthew. She really held her own in a tight cast of older actors. I can personally attest to the fact that she was a pleasure to direct as well as to watch.

One of Faith's lesser known artistic abilities lies in movement. She is a pleasure to watch when she was dancing and her moves have recently been seen in *Mask*.

So, keep your eyes open for this flash of talent. She's sure to light up the stage at BLS many times in the future.

MASK at Black Box Theater

By Allison Jolly, I
Staff Writer

“It’s indescribable,” confesses actor and collaborator Jack Ferris, II, about the BLS original show, *MASK*. That makes my job difficult, I thought, making the show seem enticing and exciting, and hinting at the artistic elements, while strategically dropping the names of everyone involved: all in just a few small paragraphs. Here goes nothing.

The play centers around a high school girl named Tam Brooks, played by Taneisha Wilson, III, and her life, demonstrated through a series of flashbacks. After an incident with her teacher, Mr. Thaddeus (played by seasoned BLS thespian, Marcus Stacy, III), Tam, and her fellow students played by Abiner Vicente I, Maury Turay, I, Michelle Miller, I, Shanna Masdea, II, come to a realization about their individual identities. Each character removes their respective masks leaving them vulnerable, but sincere for the first time. Each character has a corresponding member of the ensemble, “animi” (which all of you should know means, “spirits”) acting alongside them. This mystical ensemble allows for a myriad of different creative outlets. There are elements of movement and dance which effectively accentuate the beauty of the costumes designed by Megan Fountain, II, and the masks made by Sarah Adler II, under the guidance of art teacher, Mr. Stone. Mr. Stone and his eighth grade art class have also worked very diligently, painting black sheets of paper to be posted on the sound proof panels to make the theater, well ... black. Another very original aspect of the show is the incorporation of rythmology, step squad, and African and South American influence, molded by Sula DaSilva, a Brazilian dancer and musician. Mr. DaSilva became involved



in the production through Director and Drama Club advisor, Ms. Teasdale. The rhythm section, which consists of Jacques Ledbetter, II, Dan Ciamborne, II and Adam Finelli, II bring an exciting and invigorating side to the show.

Perhaps the most remarkable element of the show is the process in which it has been developed over the past months. The cast and crew deem it original, totally sprung from the group’s own ideas. The process started in April of 2000 and has continued since September after a hiatus during the summer. As Assistant Stage Manager, Megan Fountain remarked, “The show has totally evolved, totally changed from what it started out to be, totally changed from a week ago!” What allows for this flexibility? The show has no actual script. The actors all have general ideas and motivations behind the scenes, but the actors do not have scripted lines, basing a lot of discourse between characters on improvisation. This aspect is congruous with cooperative idea of writing and ensemble performing. Kelly Taylor, the actress who plays Kristen, describes the creative process: “It was pretty hard, but there are so

many cool people involved and it is bound to be something great.”

I could not agree more. I interviewed some people in the cast and crew during tech week which is basically the most stressful time of a performance, where all the technical aspects of the show are worked in, as well as a few nervous breakdowns and from my experience, everything looked normal. Ladies and gentlemen, these students have been working long and hard on this, their original masterpiece, and it is about time they experienced the thrill of having their artistic dream realized. I have no doubt of this play’s success. Stay tuned . . . in the next issue I promise a detailed review.

Arts Spotlight



Jonathon Gass

By Nicole Hogarty, I
Contributing Writer

Jon is, without a doubt, one of the most intriguing people I have ever come across. There is an air of determination about him that makes you wonder where he is walking. The phrase “lights up a room” was created for this boy. People are naturally charmed by him. His ready smile, quick wit, and sense of self would make any girl weak in the knees. He is a magnet.

It’s this magnetism that translates so well onto stage. The ease with which he assumes character is phenomenal. He was garnished with the award of outstanding supporting actor for his role as Schupanzigh in *Black Comedy* as a freshman in his very first performance at Boston Latin School. If that was not amazing enough, he won another award for acting at that same festival one year later in *WASP*. He is also an experienced lighting technician, having worked on lights as a sophomore in *Trial of God*. He was the assistant director for *Adaptation* last year, a play which advanced to the semifinals at the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild. This year he is assuming the role of director in the Drama Club’s newest production of *Interview* by Jean Claude Van Itallie. His experience with theater itself guarantees this play to be a success. What’s more, Jon is not one to rest on his laurels. He will undoubtedly push

His ready smile, quick wit, and sense of self would make any girl weak at the knees ... Jon is someone who can make the world fade away with a smile.

the envelope further with a boldness that promises to take the drama club at Boston Latin School to new heights. Oh, and I almost forgot—he’s one of the four producers of the drama club.

Jon is a multi-faceted artist. If you missed his contribution to the Register, “Claustrophobia,” find it. I am serious, I laughed out loud. The beauty in Jon’s writing, like his personality, is that it transports you to a different reality. When I asked Jon what type of writing he enjoyed, he rattled off a list of similar pseudo-related books: *The Stranger*, *Johnny Got His Gun*, *The Catcher In the Rye*, and *Rhinoceros*. Excellent taste, indeed. Jon is passionate about his writing and it shows. He treats the reader as his confidante, and creates a world where you can abandon your own thoughts. It’s the kind of writing that you remember.

Jon is not merely talented, he develops his talents. I met Jon in the seventh grade on the 38 morning charter bus. He entertained the entire bus with his antics. In his eyes, there is a glint of mischief when he is joking around with his friends and an intensity when immersed in his studies. He is a person who people gravitate towards for his intelligence, personality, and accessibility. Jon is someone who can make the world fade away with a smile

Holiday Blockbusters

By Rose Costello, I
Editorial Page Editor

Every year, as Americans “haul out the holly” and begin binge-shopping, Hollywood hoping to make lots of money releases the big guns. In a year of cinematic disappointment, movie buffs look to these last few months to redeem the earlier blunders. The summer blockbuster season was simply a bust. Extravanzas of historical inaccuracies and toilet humor dominated the box office. The dissatisfaction of movie patrons was evident in ticket sales; studios suffered from their mediocre releases with returns significantly below normal. Many eagerly anticipated the autumnal onslaught of Academy Award hopefuls as early as July. Fortunately, the holiday blockbuster season began early this year. The latest work of acclaimed movie director, Cameron Crowe, *Almost Famous* earned critical praise early this fall. It is the semi-autobiographical story of a teenage boy who writes concert reviews for *Rolling Stone* magazine. The film beautifully depicts the relationships between band members, groupies, and critics. There was early Oscar buzz, but now that the nomination date draws nearer, focus has fallen upon the November and December releases.

The Thanksgiving season began the barrage of cash-cow films. *The Grinch*, an adaptation of Dr. Seuss’s Christmas classic, starring Jim Carrey, is expected to rake in big bucks. *Unbreakable*, M. Night Shamalayan’s follow-up to last year’s

widely popular, *The Sixth Sense*, starring Shamalyan veteran, Bruce Willis, has moviegoers everywhere talking. Fans of *The Sixth Sense* will enjoy the semi-fantastical plot and surprise



ending. The biggest blockbuster of the season is projected to be *Cast Away*, starring Tom Hanks. The movie has been in production for a long time causing a great deal of build-up buzz. Hanks won an Oscar for *Forrest Gump* in 1994 and is said to have another chance this year. He took the role very seriously, losing 50 lbs. in order to look convincingly emaciated. This tale of a man stranded on a desert island hits theaters December 22. Nicholas Cage returns to the screen in another romantic blockbuster, a la *City of Angels*. In *The Family Man* he plays a man who chose his career rather than the woman he loved. Ten years later he sees what his life would have been like if he had married her. This will be a wonderful holiday chick flick; guys may want to steer clear. Look for it just in time for vacation on December 22. *What Women Want*, Mel Gibson’s new comedy, looks like something everyone will like. In this crazy film, Gibson finds he has the power to hear women’s thoughts. The scenes featuring this

action hero “getting in touch with his feminine side” ought to have you in stitches December 15. For those readers with younger brothers or sisters, or just a craving for animation, the Thanksgiving release, *Rugrats in Paris*, or *The Emperor’s New Groove*, on December 15, both should be a lot of fun. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. Happy viewing!



Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Upcoming Events

- Antigone* at the American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.), Dec. 8-Jan.17
- Boston Ballet: *The Nutcracker* at the Wang Theater Nov. 24-Dec.31
- A Christmas Carol* at the North Shore Music Theater, Dec. 1-Dec. 23
- Fully Committed* at the Wilbur Theater Dec. 1-Jan. 7
- Godspell* at the Shubert Theater Dec. 19-Jan. 7
- Three Farces and Funeral* at the A.R.T. , Dec. 8-Jan. 14
- The Misanthrope* by Moliere, at the Sprignold Theatre, Feb. 13-18
- Infinity's House* at the Emerson Stage, Feb. 15-25

Important Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| American Reperatory Theatre | (617) 547-8300 |
| Boston Ballet | (617) 695-6955 |
| Boston Lyric Opera | (617) 542-4912 |
| Boston Public Library | (617) 536-5400 |
| Boston Symphony Orchestra | (617) 266-1200 |
| Braintree General Cinema | (617) 848-1070 |
| Charles Playhouse | (617) 931-2787 |
| Cleveland Circle Cinema | (617) 566-4040 |
| Copley Place (Loews) | (617) 266-1300 |
| Dedham Showcase Cinema | (781) 326-4955 |
| Emerson Majestic Theatre | (617) 824-8000 |
| The Huntington Theater Co. | (617) 266-0800 |
| Museum of Fine Arts, Boston | (617) 541-4-mfa |
| Shibert Theatre | (800) 447-7400 |
| Wheelock Family Theatre | (617) 734-4760 |

New Releases

- Adaptation* TBA 2001 starring Nicholas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper
- After the Storm* TBA starring Benjamin Bratt; based on a short story by Ernest Hemingway
- A Beautiful Mind* TBA 2001 starring Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris
 - a biography of John Forbes Nash, Jr.
- Hannibal* Feb. 9, 2001 starring Julianne Moore, Anthony Hopkins
 - a sequel to Silence of the Lambs; based on the novel by Thomas Harriss
- O Brother, Where Art Thou* Dec. 26, 2000 starring George Clooney, John Turturro
 - three escaped convicts encounter all sorts of characters on their flight to freedom; based on *The Odyssey*
- The Pledge* Jan. 12, 2001 starring Jack Nicholson, Sam Shephard, Vanessa Redgrave; set in the 1950s
 - a policeman pledges to the mother of a murdered child that he will capture the killer
- Save the Last Dance* Jan. 1, 2001 starring Julia Stiles, Sean Patrick Thomas; from *MTV Motion Pictures*
 - the girl next door falls for the boy on the other side of the tracks- and of a different race
- Shadow of the Vampire* Jan. 19, 2001 starring John Malkovitch, Willem Defoe
 - while filming the classic 1922 horror film, *Nosferatu*, actors begin disappearing and one is suspected of blood thirst
- Soul Survivors* Jan. 19, 2001 starring Wes Bentley, Casey Affleck
 - a tragic car accident leads to a strange encounter leaving the characters to question whether they are still among the living
- Traffic* Dec. 22, 2000 starring Catherine Zeta Jones, James Brolin, Dennis Quaid
 - a journey through the world of drug trafficking on both sides of the law
- Vatel* Dec. 25, 2000 starring Uma Thurman, Julian Sands
 - set during the reign of Louis XIV, Vatel, a legendary French master of entertainment, falls in love with the same woman as the king

More Holiday Messages

(Continued from page 6)

Have a happy holiday if you feel like it. - Apathy Party

Merry Christmas to sexy Richard Lawson!! I love you! -BT

The season's finally here for drunken xmas cheer so if your spirits start to sink just raise a glass and take a drink of that wonderful Christmas beer

Merry Christmas to my best friend Belle. May this new year be happy - Love always, me

Al and Catherine - the Dynamic Duo - Hope Santa's good - Merry Christmas Love, Anne

I AM SORRY, GEORGE C. I FEEL REALLY BAD ABOUT HURTING YOU. FROM ADEBOLA

To the n.M.o. - Word to your moms; Fat kizzy in your mouth; Thanks for the Memories. -Gimpy

To AF, LAH, DM, etc. - FiSh - Do they? Fishie queen - gLiTTeNs! bad DM Princess! SC = Hottie!

Merry X-Mas Lu, CeCe, Aims, Mandy, Berly, Gissel, Katie! You guys are the best! <3 Lisa

Sup 2 all my friends n godfamily-! Wish u a very MERRY (and happy, of course) X-Mas and I <3 all you guys--- <3 Always, Lisa Pizza, III

Merry X-mas and a Happy New Year to all my cafeteria buddies (both breakfast and lunch)!!! -Jenny C. --> the one on the Argo staff (>_<)

Merry Christmas to all my girls LJG, JC, OO, LP, KS, JO, EB, LR, KC, and the B-Ball girls - Nabe

I love you Greg Porter! Please marry me! - Emily Poles

Technology

Thinkwave.com

By ADRIAN LEUNG, II
ASSISTANT TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Johnny B. Blue is plodding away at his computer, but he's not playing around. Instead, he's keeping track of his academic progress and checking his daily class marks through an online grading book. This is no fantasy. He is well aware of his academic performances and is determined to get that A+.

Last year, grading books have allowed Boston Latin School teachers, students, and parents to work together. On the forefront of this new revolution are two Boston Latin teachers, Ms. Zitney, a geometry teacher who introduced Thinkwave.com to the BLS community, and Dr. Lambert, the History department chairperson. Both teachers including many others have been using Thinkwave.com, and they have nothing but praise for it. Dr. Lambert asserts, "It provides what I think is a significant incentive for students to do well."

Thinkwave.com is just one of several service-oriented Web sites targeted at teachers and education. It is simply part of a larger trend to incorporate whiz-bang technology into "real-world" practical uses. Thinkwave.com is a communication tool that allows students to check their grades anytime and anywhere, send messages to teachers and also allows parents to check up on little Johnny's academic progress. It also helps teachers by catching grading mistakes early, which means fewer grade corrections at the end of the term.

All this goes along with the idea that information is power in the information age. There are no surprise Cs at the end of the term and there is no excuse for ignorance. An email from a student reads, "I was so excited. I went on Thinkwave and I found out that I made a 100 percent on my quiz and it only inspired me to go back and read my textbook again so I could make another 100 percent the next day." Says Dr. Lambert, "The more students and parents know, the better off I am as a teacher." Ms. Zitney adds, "My grade book should not be a secret from the students, it shouldn't be a secret what your grade is, it

shouldn't be a secret how I am computing your grade. You should know how you are doing at any given time."

As of now, 56 out of 58 of Dr. Lambert's students and all of Ms. Zitney's have participated. Their students have continued tracking their grades; some students are even tempted to check their grades multiple times a day.

Thinkwave.com does not in any way replace the teacher's grade book, nor does it try to. It is simply an addition. Teachers still pass out progress reports and contact parents by phone if the need arises.

Next year, Thinkwave.com will start assessing usage, but currently, Boston Latin School and the school department are looking into similar or programs than Thinkwave.com. Attendance, scheduling, and school system data will all be integrated together.

Many students who use Thinkwave.com think it is wonderful. It is exciting to be able to track their grades on a daily basis. It informs the student where they stand and allows a student to put in more effort to get a better grade. It motivates a student to work harder because he or she knows that every point counts. Senior Seda Sean says, "It gives you direct contact with your teacher so you don't have to chase teachers down the hallway just to talk to them."

Although not everybody agrees that electronic grading should be mandatory, it is clear that services like Thinkwave.com can help the process of education and strengthen the bond among teachers, students and parents.

You can find out more about Thinkwave.com by visiting it @ <http://www.thinkwave.com>

No .SEX for Now

By DEVON RUECKNER, I
ASSISTANT TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

You've probably noticed that lately, domain names have been getting stranger and stranger. Take, for example, "whatisthematrix.com." No, the producers did not want to be mysterious sounding; they got it simply because matrix.com was already taken. The same thing is happening with every other part of our economy: companies are coming up with stranger names for themselves and their products, simply so they will be able to register their name as a dot-com. The only reason Verizon has the name it does is because it was one of the few "words" still available online; now you know why all tech companies have weird non-word names. A few months ago, the dot-com situation had become so bad that literally every word in the English language is now registered as a dot-com, and there are no more domains left (shorter than 3 characters) at all.

What is the solution? They first tried raising the maximum length of a domain to 63 characters, but, obviously, not many people want a name that long. The only other possibility is a rather simple one: add more top-level domains (TLDs). A top-level domain is the last part of a URL, the .COM, .NET, etc. For commercial businesses, the standard is a .COM; however, many have gone for a .NET because there is more selection. Even with .NET, however, there are still far too few names to go around, so more TLDs

must be added. It has been commonly suggested that a range of new TLDs be added, including generic ones such as .WEB, commercial ones such as .BIZ, .SEX for the porn industry, and many more. Although many countries have gained their own TLDs in the past years (you may recognize .TO and .CC, among many others), no new generic TLDs have been added since the original .COM, .NET, and .ORG five years ago.

The U.S. government put a non-profit organization called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in charge of the World Wide Web five years ago, and they have remained in control since then. They are the ones who would need to create the new TLDs, yet because of the bureaucracy of an international organization like ICANN, they have made very little progress. In fact, only recently have they decided which new TLDs to add. At a meeting on November 16, they agreed on some seemingly arbitrary new TLDs such as .AERO, .NAME, .BIZ, .COOP, .INFO, and .PRO, among others. Despite this advance, none of these are officially available yet; this means companies are still stuck with the dwindling .COMs.

This failure to act is making the domain shortage grow worse each day, and has caused many to criticize ICANN for incompetence. It has also prompted a number of companies to take the initiative of creating and selling their own TLDs. Technically, anyone can do this without permission from ICANN. Millions of dollars have already been spent on names that don't actually exist, such as the .USA, .SEX, and .WEB TLDs. Since ICANN has rejected all of these, the money spent registering the names has essentially been thrown away.

Hopefully, the illustrious Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers will get their collective asses together and make room for more domain names. If not, you had better get used to typing in names like:

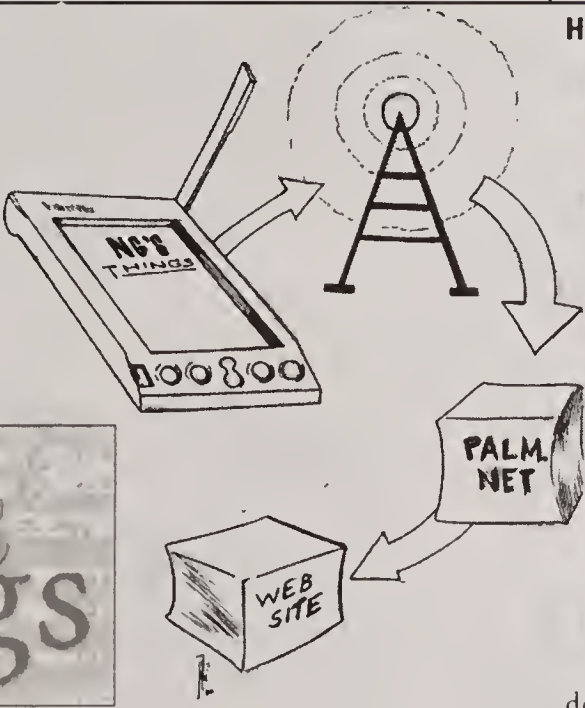
www.there-are-absolutely-no-more-names-left-so-we-got-this-one.com

By DENNIS NG, I
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Okay, okay, so I lost my pocket computer, scarred the family car, and locked myself out of the house three times this week. Things have not exactly been rosy in Ng-land lately. Not to fear, I have managed to get my paws on the hot new Palm VIIx.

The Palm Computing Palm VIIx is a pocket organizer. It stores addresses, crunches numbers and runs all Palm-compatible program including games, but this pocket wonder also accesses miniaturized web pages through its integrated collapsible antenna. Trade stocks, look up a street map or find out what "obfuscation" means in no time.

All of this technology translates to pure Internet-thrills-to-go. Not surprisingly, the most downloaded Web clipping application happens to be the "Starbucks Coffee Store Locator." Craving that caffeine hit? Just flip that antenna, hit "Auto-Find" on your screen, and your web request is sent through to the Starbucks' web site. The web site then finds the nearest location by using the zip code of the receiving BellSouth cellular antenna. Like magic, the location information and directions are presented on your screen in



How does it work?

- 1 Little packages called PQAs, "Palm Query Applications," are stored on the Palm VIIx in the form of simplified HTML web pages.
- 2 You fill in your request and the collapsible antenna sends it through a radio network to the nearest antenna in a 5 to 10 mile radius.
- 3 For many web sites, the nearest antenna's zip code is transmitted with your request.
- 4 Your request then is received by palm.net, unencrypted, uncompressed and forwarded to the right website provider, like Starbucks.com.
- 5 More HTML Web pages are sent back from the website back to palm.net, where they are then encrypted, compressed and sent back to the user.
- 6 And like magic, the Web site appears, no matter if you're at school, at work, or on top of the pottie.

mere seconds.

I had a kick of a time checking out stocks on E*TRADE, tracing UPS packages and monitoring auctions during studies, but despite the Palm VIIx's innovation, the Palm VIIx is not perfect. The biggest complaint is the pitiful performance when downloading large images like maps of Boston. The organizer operates on a decade-old radio network with a measly 9600bps speed. That's 8 times slower than 56kbps and over 240x slower than a \$40 DSL connection. Yet the cost of the service (\$10-\$45/month) places much of this innovative technology out of the hands of potential users.

The ability to access information brings all new opportunities for software

development and new paradigms in the Information Age. BarPoint allows consumers to compare prices from anywhere using barcodes. On a more useful note, Rovenet Inc. just released Where2Go 1.0, your best friend when it comes to finding the closest public bathroom in 12 major cities.

The future for mobile technology is clear though. There are already direct competitors to palm.net including Sprint PCS, AT&T, and Omnisky, all of which are also available for other platforms like cellphones and handhelds. IDC Research predicts that by 2003, 61.5 million people will use wireless devices. Forrester Research predicts that there will be over 177 million consumer subscribers to mobile services like palm.net, all of which will eventually bring down prices and increase competition.



Innovation Award

Every once in a while, a man comes along who is truly deserving of praise. Brave, valiant, and selfless, he works without regard for himself, thinking only of society's benefit.

The Tech Section is proud to honor this guy. Seeing how important the Internet and communications are becoming for the education of society, he had the ingenious idea of filtering all internet content coming into the school, and even going so far as to block web-based email. Who else would have the foresight of seeing how the benefits of arbitrarily censoring web content would far outweigh any slight disadvantages to limiting freedom of speech, information, and communication for all students.

Thank you, whoever you are.

Sports

Costello Honored

By JEREMY JACKSON, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The thrill of victory was followed by a touching moment in recognition of a life-time of dedication to excellence at this year's Thanksgiving Day game. November 23rd, 2000, which was officially proclaimed Paul Costello Day at the school's Pep Rally, brought honor and prestige to the Latin School tradition. Moments after the game clock's final ticks, Paul Costello witnessed the formation of a line representing the world he's dedicated himself to for the past 30 years. The line, comprised of friends, family, former players, and assistant coaches stretched from one end-zone to the other. Paul Costello's great devotion to the school and its students was honored in glorious form.

Costello's 25-minute walk down the personal timeline of his life at Latin School was filled with bear hugs and sturdy handshakes. The discipline and self-respect hat he instilled in each of his players came out in the firm handshakes of his former players. He made sure to see each and every person that had come out to honor his work, with the determination which characterized so much of his work at Latin School.

"He turned us all in the right direction. The thing [the players] will learn is that he'll have the most impact on their lives" said Paul Paget, class of 1971.

While recognizing the honor and pleasure he enjoyed with his time as head Football Coach, he also admitted to his occasional pre-game jitters. When asked if where he would be next year on the same day, Costello casually responded "up in the stands with no pressure."

Marty Lydon, who grew up in Roslindale and eventually became the captain of Costello's first team, said that it was Costello who coined the ferocious mascot name, "Wolfpack." It was 30 years ago that Costello created the surname, "Wolfpack," for the Boston Latin School football team. He wanted the defense to swarm to the ball like a pack of wolves. The phrase he coined grew with the school spirit. The school sports teams began to realize that the adage was true: The strength of the pack is in the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is in the pack. It is this name that has carried the Latin School pride for the past 30 years... at every football, basketball, volleyball, soccer and baseball game... and at every swimming, crew and track meet. Paul Costello has been *the* Wolfpack, and he will leave a legacy of greatness in his wake.



Purple Pride!



The game is over, Latin won, and purple is the color. The newly-appointed principal of English High School, Jose Duarte, lost the wager with Ms. Kelley over the Paul Costello Day football game. The usually amiable friends began the wager after an abrupt conversation earlier in the year, when Ms. Kelley called to congratulate him on his new position. Mr. Duarte's first words to Mrs. Kelley were "English is going to beat Latin on Thanksgiving."

While Mr. Duarte has a daunting task ahead of him to regain an image of strong school spirit, Ms. Kelley believes that he'll be up for the job. But for now, this capable English Headmaster is strutting the Latin colors with a tinge of resentment.

How Step Squad Steps

By MICHELLE MILLER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"5! 5,6,7,8!" Then the real music begins with 19 girls and two boys making beats and steps using mere hands and feet. The Step Squad has only one purpose, and that is to perform flawlessly. It's safe to say that they have been working up to other people's expectations.

Step Squad practices daily for hours upon hours of grinding repetitions and routines: The advisor, Ms. Rachel Skerrit, teaches at the Annex and is very effective in aiding the team learn the difficult steps. She watches the squad put their heart and souls into stepping and is delighted when they are rewarded with an amazing performance.

With Captains Michelle Miller and Sonya Williams, Co-Captains Latoya Sweeney and Sparkle Thames, and Officer Sitara Sadler, the squad is always on beat because of their intense leadership. The squad enthusiastically performed at home games, serving as an entertaining distraction from the pressures of the football game.

Audiences attend the pep rallies with a positive attitude for the genuine reason, and this squad is determined to keep its viewers pumped. The appreciation is immense for which everyone extends their willingness to submit to the spirited noise that the group produces, contributing to a great part of Step Squad's success.

Wrestling Team Hits the Mats

By JOSE VALENZUELA, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is 3:15 on a cold, sunny weekday afternoon and you just begin to hear the sounds of feet rustling against the mats in the new cafeteria. That is right, the 2000-2001 edition of Wolfpack Wrestling has gotten underway. Under the tutelage of head coach Jeff Azer, the team hopes to be competitive in the DCL and especially in the Division I South Sectional Tournament this year. This is Coach Azer's second year at the helm of the Pack. He hopes to rebound from tough losses last year to DCL foes Holliston, Lincoln-Sudbury, Wayland, Weston, and Newton South. "There are no excuses this year," says Azer, "We have the talent." Former Latin wrestler Kevin Daly, '00, hopes to help get the pack on the right track by picking up the position of assistant coach and putting his energy and enthusiasm to use.

Under the tutelage of head coach Jeff Azer, the team hopes to be competitive in the DCL and especially in the Division I South Sectional Tournament this year.

The team is led by senior captains John Paul "Biggie" Bravo, Brian Farnkoff, and Jason Allukian. John placed first at the Division I South Sectionals last year, while Jason placed third and others showed promise. At states, John and Jason ranked fifth and seventh respectively. The team has other dedicated veterans coming back to the pack: seniors Kevin MacDonald, Leo Gannon, Tommy Chin, Dennis Itri, and juniors Joey Webb and Nick Pierce. Representing the underclassmen are sophomores Jose Valenzuela, Joey Jolly and Dean Colpack and freshmen represented again by Nate Jackson, Brian Noack and John Beder. The starting lineup is packed (no pun intended) with quality talent. The outpour of rookies from every grade will hopefully help solidify the team and fill in the weight gaps for the future squads. The girls also have goals in mind; seniors Kaitlyn Jolly and Karyn Rautenberg want to compete in the Colonial Tournament in March.

The team has some tough matches against quality programs such as Weymouth, Whitman-Hanson and Quincy as well as against aforementioned DCL foes. The Pack will also compete in four tournaments this year including the tough Lowell Winter Classic. The Pack has a busy schedule and a strong lineup. Come support the Pack when they battle arch rivals Lincoln-Sudbury on Jan. 10 at 5 P.M. and Holliston on Jan. 24 at 7 P.M. in the gym.

Pack Bombs Blue Big Time, Beating Bulldogs

(continued from p. 1)
and then I turned back out, and I'm not sure if the defender fell or what," said MacDonald on his touchdown. "It was a little underthrown. I pulled it in, stumbled, and hopped over the goal line."

At the half, Boston English head coach Keith Parker and his players paid showed their appreciation of Coach Costello's years of dedication by presenting him with a plaque.

It was back to business though once the second half began. Latin had a chance to cushion it's lead late in the third quarter when MacDonald picked up a blocked punt by senior captain John Bravo with 3:41 left in the third. The 2-yard touchdown pass from Speranza to senior Kelvin Juarbe, on the ensuing drive, was nullified because of offensive pass interference. Bulldogs senior Garnet Brown sacked Speranza on the next play and Latin was forced to give up the ball. The

biggest play of the game was when the Bulldogs misplayed the snap and Juarbe recovered for Latin at the English 39.

The Wolfpack was not about to let this scoring chance get away and six plays after the turnover on fourth and goal from the English 6, Sophomore Yemi Owolewa sprinted across the goal line to give Latin it's insurance points. Swain knocked his second PAT of the day to make it 14-0 and the game was all but over.

"Give them credit," said Parker. "They won the ball game. They deserved to win the ball game. They made more big plays than we did. We didn't even get into their territory once during the second half."

After the game, many fans, alumni and players swarmed all around the man who had just coached his last football game. Tears came to Costello's eyes as his players lifted him onto their shoulders and proudly chanted, "Coach, Coach,

Coach!"
"It's a job I love. It's tough to give it up, " said an emotional Costello before several news cameras and about 75 alumni waiting to thank him personally.
"Congratulations to coach Costello," said Parker, who is in his 21st year of coaching. "When you coach that long, you deserve to go out a winner."
And go out a winner he did, with a final overall record of 165-123-9 at Latin. As time goes on, this one game will appear as no more than just another mark in the record books for the longest running high school football rivalry in the U.S., but at least we know that one man will never forget this past Thanksgiving for as long as he lives. Thank you, Coach Costello, for your years of dedication. We wish you the very best of luck in retirement from the entire Argo staff, Boston Latin Community and Alumni.

Cross-country, as usual, had a rough season with their lack of members, but the dedication made the season worth it. The girls made a decent showing at sectionals with Junior Captains Bridget Butler and Leigh Gilmore leading the pack. Captain Joseph Coffey and Chris Coletta led the boys team with even less members but with just as much enthusiasm. "For all of these people to come to practice every day, knowing we probably wouldn't even make it to states is amazing," says Gilmore. Four people qualified for states, but five were needed to go as a team. As a result, Butler represented the team at state where she placed 38th.

*Joseph Coffey
Chris Coletta
Adebola Owolewa



The girls volleyball team enjoyed great success this year with a qualification booth at the State Tournament. Although they didn't progress to the second round, they played well against fierce competition. Senior captains Carolyn Lennon, Gloria Shum, and Emily Conroy all were named Dual County League All-Stars and played in the final All-Star game. Leaving behind this legacy, the seniors have surely set a standard that next year's team can work to live up to.

*Emily Conroy
*Carolyn Lennon
*Gloria Shum



The boys' soccer team expected better statistics from their powerhouse of seniors, but a tough schedule prevailed, as is the common trend of Latin sports in the DCL. The boys have had three coaches in the last three years, an uneasy transition, but hopefully Mr. Osweiki will be here to stay and provide a more solid base for this team. The boys clearly presented a competitive edge throughout the season and one highlight was the boys' tie against Westford, a team that was in the top ten in the state! Two other exciting ties came from their local foes, Catholic Memorial. On another good note, there were two senior all-stars on the second team, Jacob Bor for defense and Anthony Hamad, the team's leading scorer. Hopefully more games like these are in store for the boys next season, especially with players like juniors Matt Regal, Alec Gordon and sophomore all-star Paul LaRoc.

*Matt Wright
*Tobin McKenna
Anthony Hamad
Jonah Birch
Diego McCafferty
Jacob Bor
John Perakis
Steve Delosh
Jason Allukian
Matt Erlich



The football team has certainly been the focus of this year's fall sports for the hard work and the overcoming of hardships the boys have been forced to carry out. The team pulled it together in the end with a 14-0 crushing defeat of English High School with this being Coach Costello's last year. Overcoming the adversity of this difficult year, the team is able to boast four Dual County League All-Stars: John Paul Bravo ("Biggie"), Kelvin Juarbe, Ugo Ojimba, and Dennis Castro. The entire team has been vital to this year's successes, and they all share a certain bond no other team possesses.

*John Paul Bravo
Abner Bonilla
Dennis Castro
Tommy Chin
Jared DeFlurin
Cameron Dumas
John Fabiano
Brian Farnkoff
Leo Gannon
T.J. Hannon
Marcus Jordon
Kelvin Juarbe
Erico Lopez
Kevin Mann
Keith MacDonald
Kevin MacDonald
Rob McLaughlin
Ugo Ojimba

*Nicole Devlin
*Meghan Davoren
*Erin Burke
Emily Poles
Kara Keeley
Tricia Russell
Heather Showstead
Katie Curtin
Ashley O'Brien
Suzy Vo
Stephanie Gonzalez
Lauren Gilmore
Sarita Frattaroli
Katie Freeley
Allyson Wall



The girls' soccer team had higher hopes with their numbers of 2-14-2, but in the end, they weren't really disappointed. These girls came out every game and "never stopped playing, never gave up and proved to be quite competitive," as noticed by the referees and opposing coaches. The breaks just never seemed to go their way, every majorly disputed call, penalty shot, or "blindness" seemed to go the other way and hand out victories. Despite all of that, the other coaches still respected our quality play enough to give us four All-Star slots: Megan Rounseville, Laura Tobias, Holly Brideau and Alicia Tildsley. Also, a thanks to Mariana Tedesco for accepting a red card when she stepped in to defend the safety of the girls on the team.

*Alicia Tildsley
*Holly Brideau
*Laura Tobias
*Amy Cochrane
Jessica Price
Liz Walczak
Karyn Rautenberg



A shout out to all of the cheerleaders, especially Captain Brandy Oakley, representing the senior class. The support from the rockin' step squad, football band and fans is also much appreciated. And don't forget Brian Lohan; who could? This mascot entertained the fans almost as much as the football team did!



The golf team, ecstatic over their win this season, continued to keep on their hard work. Captain Dan Fitzgerald said "We're not good, but we sure as hell try." This optimism will hopefully be passed on to present juniors, who the team will rely on in order to continue to win.

*Dan Fitzgerald
Brendan Connell
Steven Tompkins
Mike Manning
*Owen Roddy
Lauren Foley



Although sailing is not a varsity sport in the fall, the team nevertheless conducted a fall season, quite different from their spring one. Instead of the normal team racing, they did fleet racing which is centered on individuals. They participated in regattas that took place on the weekends with audiences of 30-150 people there, and came out relatively successful. "It was productive practice for boat handling, speed and technique for our spring season," said Lindsay Conlin. More people are encouraged to come out for the spring season and a thank you to coach Sean Gass.

*Ann Nguyen
*Lindsay Conlin



Sports Spotlight



The MacAttack!

By **ELIZABETH ARIAS, I**
STAFF WRITER

Bursting with energy, this Italian stallion bounds across the cafeteria as his Puerto Rican counterpart sleepily trails behind and greets the other early risers already at school. (Sorry girls, they're both taken.) Each carries his football gear in hand, sets it on a table, and quickly begins a conversation about the last game. After the much-anticipated Thanksgiving Day game, T-Rux is quick to note in a routine morning discussion that the Globe was wrong in its description of the game. According to Keith, he didn't "stumble into the end zone to score a touchdown," he "leapt for glory." Thanks for clearing that up, Keith.

I am talking about Keith and Kevin MacDonald, the unstoppable duo from East Boston. Although they will not openly admit it, both have a great deal in common. Each has served the school well, first on the JV Football Team followed by the Varsity Football Team. With Kevin as guard and sometimes as nose-guard and Keith as tight end and occasionally as defensive end, these two players are vital assets to the team. The two do admit to having a sibling rivalry though. Their toughest competition, they say, comes from each other. They "play off one another" and "tend to use each other's success to drive them to work harder and do better." They claim they get along (for the most part). Looking back, Kevin and Keith's fondest memory was playing at Westford and winning with fifty-seven seconds left in the game. It's no surprise that, in regards to the football team, Keith had to say, "They are the best friends that I have and have provided me with lots of good memories." The two would like to thank Coach Costello who "has been a leader both on and off the field," and played a major part in introducing them to a sport they love.

The two are, above all, individuals with individual interests. Kevin, who has received many merits for football including a distinction awarded to him last year for his hard work and dedication on the team, also played hockey for the New England Development League before coming to Latin. He gave this up to join the wrestling team at BLS. Now as a captain, the team counts on him for leadership and motivation. At the year 2000 Summer Bay State Games, Kevin placed an impressive 6th in the 215 lb. weight division. This year he hopes to place in the state tournament. When asked Keith said of Kevin, "My brother has overcome obstacles that nobody knows of and has still succeeded. He is the most dedicated, resilient, and hardest working person I know. He is one of the biggest motivators in my life." Although he knows that sports will continue to play a considerable role in his life, Kevin is not sure what he would like to pursue in the future. Presently, Kevin spends his leisure time volunteering with the East Boston Pop Warner Football Program and dressing up as a BLS cheerleader.

In the winter season, Keith nicknamed the "Other White Meat", is a member and leader of the Varsity Basketball Team. As center, Keith readily accepts the challenge of roughing it out under the hoop to score extra points for the team. As a member of a competitive AAU team, Keith was invited to the AAU National Championship Tournament in Orlando after placing third in New England. This year, Keith hopes to have a strong tournament run and would like to thank Coach Macnamara, who "puts everything into our team." Although he acknowledges that this is a rebuilding year, Keith affirms that the team will be "more competitive and exciting than last year." Keith hopes to continue to play sports in college at a competitive level and while maxin' and relaxin', sip Red Bull.

Keith and Kevin are two incredible, hard-driven athletes as well as excellent students and leaders. Their capabilities are apparent in every field they have chosen to pursue. The future undoubtedly holds the same in store for this much-loved twin set.

Boys Hockey Scrapes the Ice

By **GABRIELA PEREZ-HOBRECKER, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When asked to describe the boy's ice hockey team Coach Coleman said that they were a team with "lots of experience and ability." There is definitely no doubt about that. This ice hockey team has been the Merrimack Valley Conference/Dual County League champions for two years in a row and made it to the semi-finals of the state's Division 2 South tournament last year.

The team began practice of the 27th of November at the Boston University Rink and the MDC Rink in Hyde Park. They practice four times a week either from 3PM to 4PM or from 4PM to 5PM. Despite this limited practice time, the team makes the most of it. Many players practice outside of the season and play in other leagues. For example, Charlie Levin and Andrew and Nick Collins play for a South Boston team and are going to Colorado to play in the national tournament. For their first league game on the 13th of December the team is ready. Mr. Coleman says that he is "confident" in the team's ability to pull off a first win for the season.

The team's captains this year are Charles Levin and Brian Carthas. Charles Levin was named a league all-star player for his defense last year. Brian Carthas was also named a league all-star player. He is also the forward center and was the leading scorer last season.

Although the team lost six seniors from last year's team, a great deal of talent remains. There are a total of eight returning seniors on the team, including the two captains. They are Andrew and Nicholas Collins, Jeff Arinella, Joe Coffey, Michael Manning and John Tobin. All of these players have played for the varsity team in prior years and are key to the strength of the team. There are also many strong players in other grades that contribute to this team's well roundedness and depth.

Currently the team is in need of a goalie. John Balaconis, a senior last year, graduated to attend the Air Force Academy. David Katz and Ryan Kelly are both contenders to play the position. Brian Carthas has faith that these two players will rise to the occasion and play well.

The boys' hockey team has become a selling point of BLS sports, one of the most successful teams in recent memory.

As for the state tournament, they are sure contenders. When asked what the hope to accomplish Charles Levin says, "We want to win (the state tournament)." This goal does not seem to be too far away either. The team was seeded first in the Division 2 South section of the tournament last year. They received a bye and won their next game, beating Marshfield 4-0. They then lost to Franklin in a tough game. However, they are back and with more experience than before. All we can do now is wait and see.

Girls Hockey Scrapes it Twice

By **ELISABETH MAGUIRE, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The BLS girls' hockey team isn't just a bunch of figure skaters, they are the Division II Eastern Massachusetts Girl's Hockey Champions three years and counting.

The Boston Latin girls wake up early, accomodating whatever skating hours they can get at the South Boston Ice Skating Rink. Being this good doesn't come easily. Many of the girls have played on teams outside of school says Co-Captain Michelle Tassinari of this year's team. These girls enjoy the sport so much that they are improving their skills outside of school hoping to strengthen the team during the school season. The team is very young this year but amazingly talented; there are even two sixies on the team this year: Jackie Billanie and Molly Tobin. However, the team is not compeletly made up of new players. The All Stars remaining on the team are Co-Captains Jessica Price, I, Michelle Tassinari, I, and Co-Courtney Carthas, III, along with Aislinn Doherty, III, Kerry Brennan, III, and Helen McCarthy, III, the team's goalie and

an All Star for three years now. The large amount off young All Stars on the team ensures the team's future as a strong Championship team.

The girls are coached by Marty McDonough and his assistant coach Mary Balaconis. Jessica Price described the coaches as "very supportive, enthusiastic and good coaches." The team hopes that the coaching this year will again lead to another victory in the Division II Championships. It seems that the girls want to set a record for the most successeive number of Championships won at Boston Latin.

The season officially began on Monday, November 27 as the team has had its first practice of the season. They hope for an undefeated season and another Championship win. With the talented team they have this year and their fans cheering on the bleachers, the future looks good.

Even as the boys team contends for the state championship, the girls have a winning team of their own. One wonders when the challenge will be made for a Gender War on the ice.



By **JEREMY JACKSON, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

The roars were humming down the corridors as a sense of excitement grew in the classrooms. The moment had come and the 2000 Boston Latin School pep rally was about to begin. The students who were stuck in classes waited in eager anticipation to hear from their friends about how it all went. Alumni from years passed scattered the hallways with high-fives and Wolfpack chants. In the upper gym, the crowd was on its feet (the shorter ones on their tippy toes) to become part of the Latin School's finest tradition.

The BLS pep rallies are timeless. Throughout the ages, students have been able to come together every year on the day before Thanksgiving to revel in the pride that runs so deeply in the roots of the school. It is the one day of the year when all books are put aside, and all of the school's great minds are focused on the same thing: the bombing of the blue.

This day serves as a haven for many. It serves as a measurement of time for others, a way to mark the passage of years at the school. Some use the pep rallies as a means of

passing the torch on to the next generation of Latin School students. Every Latin School student recognizes the importance of the institution and its timeless meaning to the community.

This year's pep rally featured stellar performances once again from the Latin School Step Squad as well as the cheerleaders. In a barrage of high-flying acrobatics and athletic lifts, the cheerleaders pumped up the crowd to a sea of hooting and hollering. The Step Squad left the floors pulsing in waves after this year's performance. Stomping and shouting Wolfpack chants, they brought out the intense rhythms that have grown over the years amid the Thanksgiving Day game's intense rivalry.

As the school's illustrious President Joey Coffey took the microphone, all were silent. From then on, with each pause for breath, the crowd was clamoring with noise and exultation. "What are we gonna do?" was his question ... and it was answered resoundingly with thunderous shouts of "Bomb the Blue!!!" As Joey called to our memories the great worthy fights of noble heroes such as William Wallace, the crowd was stirred into a frenzy with the knowledge that this day was bigger than some football game. His words, combined with his incessant pacing, extolled the Wolfpack's legacy to the roof of the gymnasium, and the sea of students followed suit.

As one giant concluded his statement of purpose, another took the stage. The school mascot, under the cunning disguise of Brian Lohan, took the floor in a triumphant display of power and aggression. In a gloriously choreographed scene, Wolfy took the floor and spear-headed the hated English Bulldog. After taunting the crowd with blasphemous signs and a brash strut, the evil monster was flat on the floor in a flash as the gallant Wolfy preserved the Latin School pride. In this great display of victory, Lohan set a precedent for the upcoming football game.

The roars persisted down the corridors as the last fight songs were proclaimed, and the Latin School community proclaimed one phrase above the clamor: "Wolfpack, forever!"

Boys Hoops

By Jimmy Sun, III and Adam Weiss, III
Staff Writers

Hoping to improve on last year's difficult season, the boys basketball team can promise success. Led by its four returning varsity members, Brian Hughes, Ugo Ojimba, Keith Macdonald and Christian O'Donnell the team hopes to steer its fate towards victory. This seems very likely with the exceptional leadership displayed by this year's seniors. Coach Mcnammara sees promise in this group. Last year's team with a record of 9-11 were the first to miss the tournament under MacNamara's coaching reign. His goals for the team are quite simple: compete in the very talented Dual County League and qualify for the state tournament.

The team is built around the core starting lineup of Matt Flakes (III) at point guard, Christian O'Donnell (I) at shooting guard, Brian Hughes (I) at small forward, Ugo Ojimba (I) at power forward, and Keith Macdonald (I) at center. All five are working relentlessly to make their last season together a success. Brian Hughes is a talented player and probably the best outside shooter on the team. Ugo Ojimba is a very aggressive player who rebounds very well and play some tenacious defense. Keith Macdonald, the big man, is the go to guy on the inside. He has exceptional low post moves that make him very difficult to defend. Christian O'Donnell is a very hardworking player who plays very tough defense.

With a dent in the team from the loss of last year's seniors, this year's graduating class was able to produce the skill needed to step up to the challenge. Seniors such as Pat Pinto, Gary Webster, Owen Roddy, Dave Sullivan, Chinedu Okuonu and Matt Murphy, have made the jump from J.V. to Varsity. Juniors Ray Chandler and Frankie Arevalo, also fresh talent, have so far proven capable competitors in the league.

Veteran Coach MacNamara is confident that this pack will be able to overcome the struggles of last year and be competitive in the state tournament. As a member of the DCL, the boys have their work cut out for them and are aware that they will be facing top-notch teams such as Newton South and Weston.

With Coach Mac at the helm, the team is confident. Brian Hughes explains, "Coach Mac does a great job with the team and will be the biggest part of our success." The horizon glows for the Wolfpack boys basketball team as they move into what they know will be a successful season.

Girls Hoops

By Emily Robbins, II
Staff Writer

The Girls' Basketball Team heads out to the court with one thing to remember: "Offense in basketball is about skill, defense in basketball is about desire." This year the Lady Wolfpack is in luck, because they have both the skills and the desire to succeed.

The Captains for the 2000-2001 season are returning starters Ashley Britton (I), Jackie Coffey (II), and Catherine Stone (III). They lead their team during their daily practices, endless drills, and offer encouragement during games. The team's focus for this season is to combine everyone's individual strengths to become invincible as a whole.

As the sole senior on the team, Ashley Britton has been setting an example for her teammates for years now with her excellent playing ability. An unfortunate injury has recently hindered this star performer, but Ashley is determined to be back on on the court as soon as possible. This determination is certain to be passed on to the rest of the team as well. Juniors dominate the court with seven talented players. Captain, Jackie Coffey, is set for la great season, as well as key players Kate Naber, Katie Sullivan and Leigh Gilmore. Returning players Kate Pappas, Jen Olsen and Amelia Kirnon add to the team's solid reputation with their amazing basketball skills. Jackie says of the team, "I believe we have a lot of young talent on the team, and we should do very well in the DCL this year."

Though they may be some of the youngest players on the varsity team, the sophomores are anything but inexperienced. Sophomore Captain, Catherine Stone, as well as Alex Allukian and Lauren Scagnoli, are all team veterans and have an excellent season ahead of them. Corey Sylvester, Stephanie Maneikis and Annie Roddy are three remarkable players to watch out for as well. Janelle Jackson and Kristen Stone are only freshman, but their talents have proved them ready for the varsity team. Both have the potential to get even better.

The Lady Wolfpack has a strong team physically as well as mentally. Their love for the sport is evident in the excited way that they talk about their aspirations for this season. They all expect to come together as a whole and take on the DCL league with confidence. It may not be a bad idea to come and check out a few games, for you will learn what true team spirit is all about.

Sports Spotlight



Aisha Cort

By Erin Burke, I
Sports Editor

"Runners take your marks. Get set..." and the shot of the gun fires, setting the lanes of runners off on their race. In less than short eight seconds the contention for first is over. Within those eight seconds, Aisha Cort has managed to emerge from the pack victorious, which hasn't surprised anyone. Aisha has made a reputation for herself for crossing the finish line first, and runners from across New England know she is hard to defeat.

Aisha has become an integral member of the Indoor and Outdoor Girls Track teams since her joining in the seventh grade. Since then, she has steadily improved and was deemed the Indoor Girls Track Team Most Improved Player during her ninth grade year. She enjoyed several successes during tenth grade, which included attaining the title of Dual County League Champion in both the 55-meter dash and the high jump. She then went on to the State Class A Championship and was the victor in the 55-meter dash. Named an All-Scholastic athlete in the Boston Globe and the Herald, she was a member of the merited 4x200 relay team that went on to compete at Nationals.

Junior year entailed even more success for this already ationally-ranked runner. Indoor brought on another Dual County League Champion title in both the 55-meter dash and the high jump. Again, Aisha went on to defend her title as Class A Champion in the 55-meter dash with ease. In addition, Aisha competed at the National Championships again, as a member of the 4x400 relay. This success carried over onto her outdoor season, where she served the team as a captain. Determined the team's Most Outstanding Player, she reached a pinnacle in those spring months. After numerous victories in the DCL, Aisha went on to win the Class A Championships in the 100-meter dash and the high jump. At the all-state meet she placed second in the high jump, and at New Englands she placed an impressive third in the 100-meter dash and sixth in the high jump. With all that under her belt, she has established a certain fame around the state for herself and she looks to extend that fame this year.

Currently, Aisha has been counted on to step up and take the place of last year's seniors. Serving as captain for both the Indoor and Outdoor teams, she has transformed herself into the very backbone of the team, making it stronger and much more competitive. Determined and focused to win another Class A Championship definitely does not seem out of reach for this acclaimed athlete, and neither does winning a State Championship or New Englands. The same holds true for her final outdoor season, with which she hopes she'll go out with a bang.

Aisha Cort is known for her speed and talent as an athlete, but she is known for her smile and sense of humor as a friend. Always there to talk to anyone about anything, Aisha possesses the talent to make any person laugh. However, when she steps out onto a track, her focus is turned toward not only beating the competition, but also beating herself. With a burdensome course load that includes three APs her senior year, Aisha has been able to balance the stress of school with track and has still managed to succeed. Aisha hopes to add depth to the track team next year at either Brown University or Duke, which are her first two choices for college. For, when the starter says "Runners, take your marks...", everyone knows Aisha has already made her mark in both track history and on everyone's hearts. And once that gun fires, it is clear that Aisha has already won.

Boys and Girls Indoor Track Teams Sprint Into Another Season

By Lindsay Conlin, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Throughout the winter months, the girls and boys indoor track team goes where no other indoor track team is forced to go ... outdoors. Although the team has the advantage of the Reggie Lewis Center three out of the five days of the week, Mondays and Wednesdays are spent cutting through the biting winter air, because of the unavailability of both the RLC and the second floor. Despite this, both teams are ready for the many challenges that await them this season. Leading the charge is Coach Tony DaRocha, returning for the last year after almost a decade of coaching at Latin. His dedication to the team has produced five consecutive championship seasons. Another huge source of support can be found in Denise Pritchard, who is a tremendous factor in the success and heart of the team. The Pack is also aided by Coaches Frank McCullum, who has a Ph.D. in jumping, and Alice Kramer. Such an encouraging and experienced coaching staff gives both confidence and strength to the athletes.

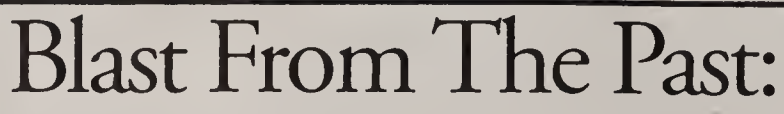
This year, the girls will have to work harder than in previous years due to the change in composition of the team. However, the team is developing new strengths in both its fresh talent and returning veterans. This year's captain, senior Aisha Cort, needs little introduction. Besides being a DCL All-Star and State Champion, Captain Cort is a source of confidence and motivation for both teams. The sprinting squad will undoubtedly be strong this year as it is powered by Ms. Cort, in addition to seniors Abra Mason and Jen Ruff, and junior star Tasheka Folkes. All three have proven highly competitive in the 55m dash and 300m. Junior and Powderpuff beast Sara Shiggs heads the hurdling coterie along with Thrisha Rose, and Dee Owolewa, sure to qualify in the 600m, is the fuel behind the middle distance troupe. Particularly potent this season, is the posse of jumpers. The

crew is extremely effective in both the high and long jump. High jumpers include "cool bean" Aisha, as well as Thrisha, Lindsay Conlin and Erin Burke. All are confident and highly skilled in qualifying for states as well as setting a possible state relay team record. Long jumpers Tasheka, Lindsay and Erin show definite signs of state qualifiers. Coming off of a solid Cross Country season, juniors Bridget Butler and Meghan O'Conner dominate the distance events. As a team, the girls have only one more title that they have thus far not claimed: State Champion. They came close, though with a second place finish in 1999, and this dream may not be so far off for this season. Although Coach DeRocha has acknowledged that this year is a "rebuilding year" for the team, all are confident that the girls will be able to perform with the grace and agility that has set them apart in the DCL thus far.

As has been their disadvantage in previous years, the boys team is again struggling on account of numbers, not a lack of talent. However their dedication determination and skill are not to be overlooked. Junior captains Matt Simonini, long jump king, and Joan Duran lead this year's brigade. Both are state qualifiers in the 4x400 as well as distance top dogs. Accompanying them this season are fellow junior and long jump champ Brandon Swanson as well as senior sprinter Greg Portahouse and senior middle distance runner and hurdler Chris Coletta. These veterans are complemented by a strong base of lower classmen who train just as hard, if not harder, to outshine their "elders." It is expected that the team will greatly improve this year and most likely all will qualify in their individual events, as well.

Although both teams have acknowledged that they have many hurdles to overcome this year, they are up to the challenge. As this is the last year together as a coaching staff, the team is confident that "one more" DCL title is in their future.

Comics by Ryan Montoya, I



Those of you who think the Argo's not relevant should have been around in the days of Athena. Athena, who was actually current grandmotherly Headmaster Kelley, served as the trusted advisor to a generation of Latin School students. Or maybe the Argo's always had a need to fill up space with mindless drivel. But we figured we could get twice the mileage if we reprinted this item from the November 1982 issue of the Argo. Enjoy.

It's hard to establish yourself in any new environment, but you can start by joining a few of the clubs where you can meet all kinds of people. Don't be afraid to let people know who you are and what talents you have. You'll have new friends sooner than you think.

1. Horrible movie from "South Park" guys
2. Falls near tree
3. Hemingway used the word 57 times in short story
4. Asian dialect
5. Er...not dad
6. Stall
7. Same as 47 Across
8. Popular internet site
9. ____ and tonic, preferred beverage of Johnny B. Greene
10. Tree type
13. Theft
15. Johnny B. Greene's favorite snack
16. ____ stuff
21. Railroad, for short
22. Gets delivered
24. Photo file ending
26. Actor Diggs
27. Did 31 Across to pasta
30. Body of water
33. Bias without the B
34. BLS original show
35. Dog comment
36. Argo Mecca
37. BLS sportsman's remark?
40. After PS
42. Catch ____ catch can
44. Eat this and avoid irregularity
48. Hot beverage
49. Unit of celery
50. "You're" on 8 Down
51. Buddhist chant
52. Found in cave
53. Couldn't think of a clue...the answer is "CEC"
54. Science project material
55. Patties (not meat)
58. Monday night entertainment for Johnny B. Greene
60. Moray
62. Where to find the Catcher

HAPPY EVACUATION
DAY FROM ALL OF
US HERE AT THE
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Boston Latin School
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Volume XXX Issue III

Free (and worth every penny!)

February 2001: 20 pages



Tam Pham
1983-2001



Memorial, Page 20

Students Call For More Support, Progress Imminent

BY ANDREW BARR, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the BLS community mourns the death of senior Tam Pham, sentiment is growing for a reform of the student support system at BLS.

While some question lapses in the current system, a group of seniors and new Guidance Director Mr. Montague are working together to pinpoint areas in which BLS can better take care of its heavily pressured students.

Throughout the school, groups are doing their part to make the general student body aware of problems and solutions currently in place. The Argo is running a special two-page section highlighting some of these deficiencies and efforts.

The Guidance Department with students in the wake of Tam's death to help them cope with the tragedy. While counselors were themselves dealt a blow by the sudden loss of Tam, they made themselves available at all hours of the school day. Dr. Laura Basilli, a psychologist from Children's Hospital, held a forum for parents on Tuesday, February 14th, to help them help their children.

And even as BLS staff scrambled to heal the hole in the community, members of the student body organized to ask the administration to take another look at the way students are helped through their time at BLS.

Senior Becca Tumposky, a friend and classmate of Tam's, said of the student-sparked efforts, "We are trying to look at the support mechanisms that have worked in the BLS community, both the peer lead and the adult lead. If we can organize some sort of

stable support here, it could be a very powerful tool in helping to improve the climate of Boston Latin."

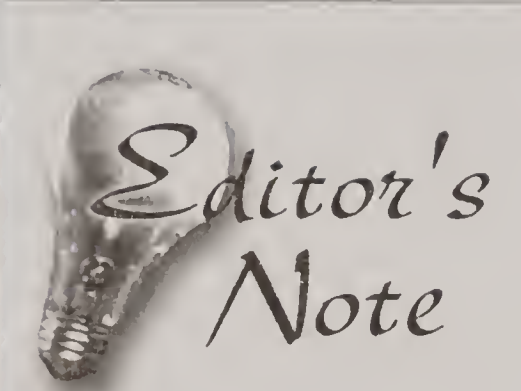
Indeed, the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) has been at the forefront of organizing peer support. GSA member and senior Doug Le has contributed an article to the special section of this issue in which he discusses GSA's ideas for using peer support to fill the holes left by the size and scope of the BLS student body.

Guidance at BLS is often attacked by students, who claim that counselors are unavailable or unresponsive. The actions of the counselors during that difficult week proved otherwise. The glaring need that became apparent was not a need for better counseling, but a need for more counseling. Guidance counselors are assigned to BLS by the City of Boston. City Director of Guidance

Peter Lee, a member of the IDR team that visited Latin recently, is responsible for the process, much as Mr. Montague is responsible for the specifics of guidance counseling at BLS.

And while some have criticized the administration for attempting to carry on with the school's business too soon after the tragedy, one constant from all sides has been the overwhelming praise for Mr. Montague. He spent that difficult week walking up to seniors to check on their emotional states and helping them get through their days, even with their tremendous emotional burdens. Tumposky commented, "If there were a way to have that one-on-one contact on a regular basis and with peers as well as trained adults, we'd all be better off."

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| News ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL: WE DON'T NEED NO MEDIA CENTER! Page 3 | Forum MAMA, LET YOUR BOYS GROW UP TO BE SHORTSTOPS! Page 8 | Special Section: A MANDATE FOR CHANGE Pages 10-11 | A&E BLS SENIORS TO BECOME INTERNATIONAL TEEN IDOLS! Page 13 | Sports JOCKS NEED LOVE TOO! Page 16 |
|--|---|---|---|--|



ANDY: Well, Becca, it's Issue III, that time of year when we look at ourselves and our staff and wonder, "Why, why,



Q. What ever happened to McGruff the Crime Dog?
A. Look for a special expose in Issue IV, current research indicates that he is currently serving time in the pound for Assault and Battery having taken a "bite out of" a six year old girl.
Q. Who is that devious character Andrew Barr and where can I get some of those stylish boots he always wears?
A. Nobody really knows who exactly Andy is, but I bet he got those boots at The Barn in Newton.
Q. Why did I get my carnations the day after Valentine's Day?
A. I hope you learned your lesson.

whyGodwhy?" (Tommy O'Malley style.)
DIEGO: I feed on your soul with the fire of a thousand suns, gah!!!!
ANDY: Er...that's right, Becca, the Argo has made a lot of progress since September. We've successfully--
DIEGO: Foolish mortal, how dare you address me with the lowly term of "Becca." I am Zarathose, god of the monkey/ pirate hybrid that peoples the island of Loganzar!!!
ANDY: Becca, are you OK?
DIEGO: Dare not gaze into the light that is my presence, flesh bag. I have extinguished entire planets with a mere thought...the villainy I have created is known across the cosmos!

ANDY: Hey, wait a minute. You're not Becca! You're Diego! Where's Becca?
DIEGO: By my troth, I have been foiled again. I must quit this place forthwith! Blast you, knave. Blast Andrew Barr!!!!

NEXT ISSUE:
Becca and Andy will return next issue to their regular roles in the Editor's Note column. The Argo apologizes for any emotional damage or confusion the presence of Diego may have caused. Please continue to faithfully read this column for more insightful commentary on the content and journalistic style of the paper from those who know the best.


It never pays to get your girlfriend a Valentine that consists of a wilted carnation and a Xeroxed card. Oh. And don't forget to buy Argo Shamrocks for your St. Patty's Day sweetie!

Q. When will the Argo Editor Deathmatch take place and where can I purchase my ticket?
A. We are currently negotiating with Erin Burke's agent who says that the match will include lots of mud and a little bit of whoop-ass. He refused to make any further comment.
Q. Can I ask you a question as if you were a magic eight-ball?
A. It is uncertain. Try again later.
Q. Who would star as Andy if they were to make a movie on the Argo?
A. Mr. Snuffellufugus from Sesame Street. He's back and he needs work.
Q. Why are we still here on a Final Thursday night when Final Friday was last week?
A. I want chicken, I want liver, Meow Mix, Meow Mix please deliver.
Q. Are any of the girls on the Argo staff available?
A. For the last time, nobody likes you Jonah Birch so stop bothering the girls.
Q. Do we really have a TV studio in the basement?
A. Where do you think the school produces its special line of pornography and Alien Abduction videos?
Q. Ew.
A. You're not kidding.
Q. Hey, was that really how you spell Snuffellufugus?
A. No. But we're tired, so you all will just have to deal.
Q. Seriously, why is this paper still not done on the Thursday after Final Friday?
A. Hey, we've had to listen to Andy yelling that in this really high-pitched, squeaky voice for the last four hours. Enough already.
Q. Is the MacShac moving to a smaller, less-ventilated room in the basement for Issue IV?
A. Yes.
Q. And as a result, will the quality of Ask the Argo increase?
A. No. It will decrease.
Q. Oh. That's too bad.
A. And you thought it couldn't get worse.
Q. So, how many comments did Durkin make about Mainers today?
A. Well, only 4 today, but the kids have gotten in the habit of staring at Karyn when she says them.
Q. Is Ask the Argo really just a shameless filler column?
A. Is Ask the Argo a filler column? Well, that's a very interesting thought.

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**Boston Latin School
Argo**

Founded in 1970

The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents and alumni. The expressions, suggestions and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editors. The Argo reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

The Argo is produced as an extracurricular activity. Typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to editors@blsargo.org, given to Andrew Barr, 101, Rebecca Tumposky, 136, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the main office

Tam Pham Memorial compiled by Rebecca Tumposky and Han Yu

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2000 Suffolk University Excellence in Sports Writing Award | 1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award |
| 1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award | 1996 3rd Place Winner of Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition |
| 1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award | 1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition |

- Top 10 Rejected Argo Article Titles
10. Argo Valentine Promotion Termed "Shady"
 9. Rolo Found In Fetal Position In MacLab Corner
 8. Starbucks, Argo Out Of Business
 7. Students Disciplined For Floor-Sitting
 6. Andy Evolves Into Pure Liquid Sarcasm
 5. New Humor Feature Fails Miserably
 4. See Inside For JCL Pullout!
 3. Joke Laughed At, Andy Not Responsible
 2. (The Argo can't afford to reject articles)
 1. Nothing Found To Be Happening In School, Argo Staff Goes Out And Vandalizes Cars Instead

- SPECIAL THANKS TO
- Mr. Gwiazda
Mr. Pow
Mr. Aversa
Mr. Power
Mr. Tyner
Libby Black
Mr. Flynn

On The Move: Construction Sallies Forth

By LEE GUO, I
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

With a “bzzz bzzz” here and a “ding dong” there, another wonderful day comes to session in our beloved Boston Latin School. Despite the ample audio and visual proof of hard working construction workers hammering away the past and drilling into the future, only a handful of the populace knows what is going on with the construction that is destined to change the prestigious BLS.

If the above introduction has sufficiently grasped your attention, then let us begin our grand tour of the building. The basement that once housed the old cafeteria since 1921 is bound to experience the most changes. From demolition of two-foot-thick brick walls to installation of overhead



skylights, the basement will emerge from the rubble with a new coat of shining armor, ready to tackle the educational expectations of the 21st century. In place of the old cafeteria, a state-of-the-art library/media center, destined to rival every high school in the nation, will be installed. The previous rooms, 014 to 016, will be combined to form one high-tech computer lab. In it you can expect nothing less than the latest pieces of hardware, processing at the speed of

light. The front corridor will be home to the new TV studio. The basement will also house a memorabilia room, the Schwabel Center, and various offices. Once the construction is completed, the library/media center will be easily accessible by two entrances. The main entrance will be behind the Alma Mater statue in the former front foyer and down a flight of

stairs. Another entrance will be near the old kitchen. In general, the new state-of-the-art library/media center will be the high-tech educational Eden of the 21st century.

As we first floor we d r a s t i c The new coat fresh layer of just a few of the privileged scholars the second shrouded in behind the signs. Only a rooms on the being used.

expected that by the first week of February all of the second floor will be finished. In addition to the new paint, refinished floors, new radiators and brand new sets of furniture, all rooms have numerous electrical outlets and LAN connections installed. A typical Boston



move on up to the can easily see the improvements. of paint and the polyurethane are luxuries we Boston Latin experience. Yet, floor remains semi-obscurity construction fraction of the second floor is However, it is expected that by the first week of February all of the second floor will be finished. In addition to the new paint, refinished floors, new radiators and brand new sets of furniture, all rooms have numerous electrical outlets and LAN connections installed. A typical Boston



Latin classroom in the future will have six computer stations in the rear for students: one computer station up front for the teacher and a digital imaging projector mounted on the ceiling. Talk about high tech! Next thing you know, we will all be downloading lessons directly into our cerebral cortex and uploading our homework assignment into the teacher's.

The final phase of this monumental project will be to evacuate the third floor and move into the newly finished second floor classrooms. The science labs, rooms 314 and 315, are expected to be complete and ready for use after February vacation. During the summer of 2001 new furniture is expected to arrive and the library/media center is ready to welcome eager students to another year at Boston Latin School.

The details mentioned above are merely sketches of what the future will hold. Only time will tell.

Boston EMTs Conduct CPR Training at BLS

By COLEMAN FLAHERTY, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 16 and 23, a group of 28 students learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and was certified by the American Heart Association. CPR is a life saving technique that can revive people whose heart or lungs have stopped working. A variety of circumstances may lead to an emergency in which CPR may be useful; some of these include heart attack, choking, drug overdose, electric shock, drowning, and suffocation. Each year 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association estimates 100,000 of them could have been saved by initiating the so-called chain of survival: starting CPR to keep oxygen flowing and the heart pumping; calling 911; and using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Seventy-five percent of sudden deaths occur in the vicinity of bystanders. Unfortunately most bystanders remain bystanders and refuse to administer CPR. In a recent survey it was discovered that only fifteen percent of Americans trained in CPR would administer mouth-to-mouth to a stranger. This is a shocking fact that underscores the importance of learning CPR. If a loved one is in need of CPR, the odds are against him or her of receiving it from a stranger, even if there is a qualified person watching.

The classes started after school in the Black Box Theater. A video introduced the class to CPR and basic safety guidelines such as the importance of not sticking a fork in an electrical outlet. After watching 20 minutes of people drowning, being electrocuted, suffocating, and choking themselves only to be saved by a paramedic using CPR, the actual instruction began. The students were split into 6 small groups and instructed by a paramedic. As soon as I

saw the six little Annex CPR mannequins I knew that this was not Mr. Nieves's health class, although the cheesy video gave me flashbacks.

Since the groups were so small and each person received so much attention, it made learning CPR seem simple, which it really is. The paramedics instructed us on how to recognize when someone needs CPR by checking the victims breathing and pulse. We then learned how to administer CPR to adults, children, and babies. I really appreciated the small groups since the instructor caught me killing the baby CPR doll twice by improperly performing CPR.

The class also included a lesson on how to use an automated external defibrillator. The AED was designed to be idiot-proof, and then I did not mess up. When the power button is pushed, the AED jumps to life. A voice booms out of the AED, reminiscent of Star Trek, and gives instructions for saving the victim's life. These devices are becoming increasingly popular and in some places are being hung on walls like fire extinguishers. In the wake of the tragic loss of John Yessayan, the school has purchased two AED devices similar to the ones that the CPR class practiced on. One of the AED devices will be left in the nurse's office while the other will be left in the athletic department and brought to various athletic events.

CPR is an invaluable life saving tool. It does not matter how many high-tech tools EMTs have, none of them are important if the victim is dead before the EMTs reach them. CPR does not cost anything to learn and only costs about \$5 to be qualified by the American Heart Association. It is estimated that over 100,000 lives could be saved each year if enough people mastered CPR. If you are interested in learning CPR, you can log onto the American Heart Association Web site and search for CPR classes in your area at http://www.cpr-ecc.org/SEARCH_ECC.ASP

BLS Students Gear Up For April Visit to Cuba

By WAJIHA AHMED, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spring Break: fun, fun, and more fun! But who could ever conceive of actually learning something while enjoying a vacation? Sherar Andalcio, a senior, decided to merge the two previously incompatible concepts in his idea to organize a group of students for a trip to Cuba. This is not your ordinary group of pleasure seeking vacation-goers. Sherar first decided to pursue this because he was tired of the exaggerated propaganda surrounding Cuba and Fidel Castro. Fidel Castro claimed power in 1959 following the Cuban Revolution. Since then, he has transformed Cuba into a socialist nation, implementing changes in the country's social and economic systems. Castro initialized programs that dramatically increased Cuba's literacy rate and provided virtually all of its citizens with quality healthcare. Other students had their own reasons for wanting to go—some with similar motives but others with surprisingly different ones. Some see Cuba as an environmentalist's and a nature lover's paradise, with its vast virgin lands that have only been scarcely developed. Others consider it to be an interesting case study on account of the fact that Cuba is a country that has been, for the most part, free from the influence of American

capitalism. (There is no McDonald's!) They want to learn about the different problems that Cuba faces and how Cuba copes with them.

For example, how is the situation of the poor in a socialist government different from that of the poor in America? What is it like to live in a third world country? Why is Cuba better off economically than most other Latin American countries that have allowed the US to intervene in their affairs? What are their history books like?

One student pointed out that he has been taking Spanish for over four years and has been interested in Latin American culture ever since. This will give him a chance to improve his skills in the language and experience Cuban art and music firsthand. Some want to learn how the Cubans themselves feel about the United States. Still others are intrigued by Cuba's ability to find alternate energy sources and even how they produce such great baseball players.

With the help of Mr. Fernandez and several other adults, Sherar and his band of intellectuals hope to make this trip a reality. However, this will not be an easy task. They must seek approval from our very own Boston Latin School, the Boston Public Schools, and the Department of Treasury, and raise an estimated \$20,000. We wish them the best of luck!

Community Service

BY MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II &
GABRIELLA PEREZ-HOBRECKER, II
NEWS EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year the senior class will contribute 32,600 hours of service to the community. Well, that's the idea. To graduate, a student must complete one hundred hours of community service starting the summer before senior year. Colleges like to see service on an application because it reveals a student's interests outside of school, in addition to SAT scores, grades, recommendations, and essays. Service demonstrates a commitment to the community and a desire to be an active part of college life.

But ask a senior about what s/he is doing this year to make the world a better place, and s/he might answer, "Um . . . answering phones in the Guidance Office during my studies?"

Another student might be working for a more noble cause. Senior Eugene Kreydin, who sees a medical career in his future, has volunteered at three hospitals in Boston. He admits the work was menial ("I folded baby clothes at the maternity ward of Brigham and Womens' ..."), but he knows that lackeys like him keep hospitals running smoothly. "The doctors really appreciate it. They need all the help they can

get."

Senior Doug Le volunteered junior year through an Americorp program at the Dorchester House, a community center. "We took kids from an after school program to a nursing home every week. It was an incredible experience." Doug thinks the school does a disservice to the students and the community by ignoring volunteer work that is completed before senior year. "It is atrocious that although I worked for three hours a week my junior year, it does not count towards my graduation requirement." Doug knows that to make a lasting contribution to the school you have to start long before senior year. He has been a solid presence in the Gay/Straight Alliance since ninth grade and Amnesty International since junior year. The school does not count this as service, however it does count being a hall monitor.

"Lots of kids get their service hours by being hall monitors, where they sit on their butts during studies, so they can sit on their butts for five days at the end of the school year," says Catherine Anderson, a senior. Catherine and her friend Diana Buda biked on the 375-mile Boston-to-New York AIDS Ride this fall. In addition to completing the challenge and contributing \$1750 to AIDS awareness and research, she spent hours training and fundraising. Catherine thinks the BLS system encourages students to volunteer for the sake of

getting out of school a week early, not for the sake of making a contribution to society.

Andrew Barr, our very own King of the Argo, is uncertain of what he will put down for his one hundred hours. Can he count all of the nights he has locked himself in the Mac Lab until midnight as editor of the Argo, or all of the years (6) he has been heading the Visit BLS! program? Maybe he'll have to subtract time from these activities and commit to being a hall monitor.

Imagine the positive contributions that 326 students can make in their community! The senior adviser Mr. Keitt, whose office is right across from room 132, helps students coordinate volunteer positions. He stresses that the most important part of volunteering is to "demonstrate caring" and do something you can expand on, especially through college. Mr. Dervan, our beloved career specialist, has recently left the school after a few years of helping students with resumes and jobs. You can reach him at briandervan@yahoo.com.

Currently, Ms. Yu, the assistant director of the Saturday Success School, needs volunteers to tutor students during the week and during the Saturday Success School sessions. If you are interested, contact Ms. Yu in room 311.

BLS Science Fair Fun-ducational!

BY JIE SONG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you are someone who wants to find out how the Truss Configuration is relative to the load bearing capacity of bridges, or how the TACC-3 gene is responsible for Cherubism, or how Protein Kinase C is localized in human corneal Fibroblast, then you should have been at the special annual BLS Science Fair on Jan 27, 2001. This fair is special not only because it contains the answers to these questions and more, but also because it is the first BLS Science Fair to be held in the new West Wing.

To those participants who once competed in the old cafeteria, for which they can only now retain the best of memories, the 2001 BLS Science Fair was a different experience. The crowded long tables, the worn floor, and the dim lights under the balcony have all been transformed to a new dimension of space, sanitation, and brilliance. The practice of assigning several contestants to one single long table has now changed to the assignment of two people per round table (a new geometric addition), and several to a bench. The students now tread upon a new and sanitary floor rather than the obsolete and sometimes treacherous ground of the old cafeteria. The once dim, yellow balcony lights by which



one could barely read have been replaced by brilliant florescent lights reinforced by natural radiance from large windows that can actually be seen through. Furthermore, now that there are geometric variations to the dining hall layout, students find more room than what they were accustomed to. As I walked around the projects and socialized with the participants during the public session, I realized that many shared the same thoughts. Jida Yan, for instance, felt that there were more tables, more room, and that the lighting and atmosphere were better.. Robert Russell thought that the dining hall was less gloomy. Similarly, Kanli Zhu found that the fair was fun and better organized. Many of those who do not wish to be quoted, except a few who felt that the arrangements made them feel isolated and alone, also gave similar praises concerning the atmosphere and organization of the fair, a good part toward the success of which was contributed by Mr. Shluzas with late

night work and careful preparations.

The fair, to the majority of students, was a great success, and it was an even happier event for the winners. In total, there were 120 participants, with 90 senior division contestants and 30 junior division contestants. The prizes, 16 in all for either division, totaled at 1525 dollars. The competition for the prizes was, of course, intense as ever; in fact, it was the first time in years Mr. Shluzas has ever seen so many ties. Finally, all the participants received certificates of participation bordered in golden ink, which will surely make a nice addition to any portfolio. Therefore, congratulations and thanks to all of those who participated for being such avid scholars in science, and good luck to those who will move on to the regional competitions.

BLS Science Fair Winners

| SENIOR | JUNIOR |
|--|--|
| <i>First Place</i> Jennifer French | <i>First Place</i> Andrew LeGendre |
| <i>Second Place</i> Meghan Droste Corey Nimmer | <i>Second Place</i> Maura Donnelly Shawna Sinnott |
| <i>Third Place</i> Betty Ho Devon Rueckner Kanli Zhu Heidi Lo | <i>Third Place</i> Elizabeth McDonough Elizabeth Hanson Grady Ryther Molly Fitzgerald Stefanie Chan |
| <i>Fourth Place</i> Ryan Montoya Jamila Martin Minh Nguyen Robert Timmerman | <i>Fourth Place</i> Will Tao Sarah Sears Elizabeth Timmerman Allison Putnam |
| <i>Honorable Mention</i> Lisa Kenyon Teddy Kuttner Adam Finelli Emily Dunne Tobin McKenna | <i>Honorable Mention</i> Kayla Cuddy Tu Zeng Alberta Wright Yelin Qin Douglas Wang |
| <i>Richard Spillane Book Award</i> Elaine Leung | |

Princeton Review Kicks Off in the Morning

BY QI FENG, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Early in the morning of Saturday, January 20, two hundred and twenty-two juniors trudged their way through the slushy and slippery streets to the BLS Dining Hall, many still bound to their dreams. The reason for getting up so early on the weekend? To take a model SAT I: Reasoning Test.

It sounds simple, yet it affects each and every one of the participants. The results from the diagnostic test will help the good people at the Princeton Review determine the strengths and weaknesses of the individual student. The teachers can zero in on the specific topics that still need work over the next couple of months leading up to the March 31 exam date, be it "quantitative comparison," "critical reading," or some other fancy Educational Testing Service lingo.

Although reviews of the initial test itself have been lukewarm, many students are hoping to give their corresponding PSAT scores a huge boost through the course.

Kevin Maloof stated that "[the test] was definitely harder than the PSATs" and added that there were "a lot of math sections." Coleman Flaherty found the test to be "boring and deficient in terms of bathroom breaks." Supposedly, the stretches between sections IV and V did help him alleviate stress.

One of the reasons that so many juniors signed up for the course was because the instructors were young, motivated, anti-ETS, and most importantly, funny in their approach to the test. Others like Niora Fabian claimed that "[she didn't] want to be left behind [her] peers for test preparation." With the pressures of college looming, no one wants to spend biweekly three-hour sessions after school and on Saturday mornings memorizing formulas and vocabulary.

Instead, meet Joe Bloggs—just one of many innovative Princeton Review creations for tackling the SAT. Joe is your average student: he gets all of the easy questions right, some of the medium questions right, and none of the hard questions right. Using principles such as this, Princeton Review students will be able to rule out the most tantalizing answers in difficult multiple-choice questions simply because

they are traps.

In addition to tricks and shortcuts, the Princeton Review also emphasizes the fundamentals. Third-year head-instructor Jed Smith says the most blatant trouble spots he noticed from the diagnostic test were "two-fold: pacing and vocabulary." These can be corrected with repeated practice (three more mock tests are forthcoming). Asked about the success of the company, fellow teacher Keri Hoyt explains that "[it] has no respect for the SAT. The test does not measure intelligence. The test tests for what is on the test. We will teach the students the geography, how it is written. This course is the best and fastest available."

BLS alumnus Bruce McKinnon seems to agree. He says that the school received offers from four test-prep companies, but "data proved that the Princeton Review is indeed the best." Not to mention affordable. Students are only being asked to pay \$300 compared to the regular \$800 rate because of a generous donation from the Boston Latin School Association. Hopefully, this important investment will pay dividends soon.

Why We Are Boycotting

By TRUDE RAIZEN, V &
HANNAH WEINSTEIN, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

When coal is burned to produce electricity, the electrical energy produced is less than the potential energy in the coal. Which best explains this observation?

a) As coal is heated, some of the molecules move so fast that they are destroyed.

b) Some of the energy in coal is destroyed by the intense heat required to release its potential energy.

c) Some of the potential energy in coal is converted into forms of energy other than electricity.

d) The amount of potential energy in fuels is overestimated.

Can you answer this question? Massachusetts eighth graders will be answering questions like this on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test (MCAS) this spring. This test began as part of the MA Education Reform of 1993 which was meant to insure all schools equal funding and resources. Somewhere along the line, the test began to be used to judge teachers and students.

Many people believe that there are many problems with the MCAS. One of the problems is the fact that it is biased. On the 1999 tenth grade history test twenty-five out of thirty-nine multiple choice questions are

solely about European or American history. Tests in other years follow a similar pattern. Nowhere does this test say “European History” or “US History.” Supposedly, this is a world history test. By leaving out the histories of other peoples a message is sent saying to them, “Your history does not matter.” These peoples include Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans.

Incidentally, these groups, especially Blacks and Latinos, have much higher failure rates than whites. On the eighth grade English Language Arts subtest of 1999, 28% of Blacks, 14% of Asians, 39% of Latinos, and 28% of Native Americans failed. Only 8% of the whites who took the MCAS failed this portion. In the Mathematics section on the same test, 71% of Blacks, 33% of Asians, 78% of Latinos, and 73% of Native Americans failed, yet 31% of whites failed. In tenth grade, starting with the class of 2003, it will be required to pass the MCAS for graduation. The failure rates for the tenth graders who took the test in 1999 were similarly drastic. Students of color are not the only ones who have high failure rates. Other groups are learning disabled students and students who are still learning to speak English.

Another effect the MCAS has had is what is being referred to as “teaching to the test.” This means that curriculums are being rearranged to fit in courses that cover

information on the test. Courses that have nothing to do with the MCAS are being eliminated. Among the classes that are disappearing are Women in Literature, the Holocaust, African American Literature, Bible through Literature, Computer Literacy and Facing History and Ourselves. Aren’t these just as important and enriching as the classes replacing them?

For these reasons and others, many students across the state have been boycotting the MCAS. These students believe there should be an alternative for promotions and graduating instead of this test. Some alternatives include student-created portfolios or portfolios created by the student and his/her advisor. The boycotts have not led to any changes yet, except for a promise to revise the MCAS. Sadly, while these revisions are still in the process, many people are dropping out of school because they feel they will not be able to pass the MCAS.

Some students at Boston Latin School are in the process of organizing a boycott. If you think that the MCAS may not be a good graduation requirement you should find out more information on the boycott going on in this school. The more people that are involved, the more impact the boycott can make.

For more information PLEASE contact Hannah Weinstein or Trude Raizen, both in homeroom 208.

It’s All-Girls At Annex

By MEREDITH GARRY, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Not too many of us here at the main building have a very detailed idea of what happens over at the annex, except perhaps that sixie life continues, with kids progressing farther along on the road to a Quasimodo-like posture. The annex is a curious place, and much different from the main building. For instance, before you can even enter sixie-land (unless you happen to be one yourself), you have to ring the bell, identify yourself and your business, and then, maybe, you will be allowed to enter. However, there are not only procedural differences. The annex has classroom differences as well.

Throughout the building, students at the annex are grouped in clusters - A, B, and C. The system is much like the old GEM program or the 8th grade Connections. There is one group that stands apart from the rest; the all-girls class. Just about everyone at BLS knows that for more than 300 years, our school was an all-boys academic institution. But an all-girls class? Unheard of. This September, though, as homeroom A24 filled up, the students noticed that there was not a boy in sight. Presumably, this was a computer error, or so the girls were told. Whatever it was, a conscious or unconscious decision, the class stayed the way it was until after Winter Break.

My sister is a member of the all-girls class, and she doesn’t really seem to mind being isolated from the boys. After all, studies have indicated that girls and boys have very different learning styles. Without boys in the classroom, teachers are able to cater to the academic needs of girls. For some reason, though, administrators decided to integrate the classes, but only for Latin, Science, and Math. This decision is somewhat ironic, because Math and Science are the two subjects that have been shown to demonstrate the biggest learning differences between genders. And while Latin school is not known for being, well, modern, they could have at least chosen to integrate the English classes and specials instead. Sixie year lays a foundation for the notorious high school years . If there is a time that students need special attention, it is sixie year, while kids are going through the most of the formative changes that happen during adolescence.

Obviously, I am not saying that BLS should convert to gender-segregated education; that would be far too extreme. A co-ed, as well as culturally diverse learning environment, such as we have here at Latin has a multitude of benefits. However, for the benefit of the students in the all-girls class, their math and science classes should have been left the way they were - the other classes should have been the ones that were switched. Will there be any benefit to the students for being integrated? Only time shall tell. As for if a single-sex learning environment was any help? The final grades compared to the co-ed classes with the same teachers will tell in English. However, no one can tell if a full year of segregated education would have made a difference for science and mathematics.

Know Your Rights As A Student!

By MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II
NEWS EDITOR

What are the consequences of boycotting the MCAS? In Cambridge, the consequences are good. The MCAS has faced so much opposition in Cambridge that the School Committee is rallying to defend students, teachers, and parents voicing concern. The School Committee voted unanimously to protect boycotting students from punishment such as suspension, and to place them in classrooms during test time so that they do not lose learning time. Cambridge is trying to remove “improvement of MCAS scores” from the Superintendent’s list of priorities. Brookline and Cambridge school committees are urging schools not to change their curricula to “teach to the test.”

While these communities are sending a message to the State Department of Education that they will not stomach a test which is being forced down their throats, the Boston Public Schools are bowing down to state powers. Superintendent Payzant has lauded standard-based reform and declared the MCAS “a key element in the state’s overall education reform movement.” However, Payzant believes that only the English/ Language Arts and Mathematics sections should be graduation requirements. Because there is still “widespread disagreement about the social science frameworks,” he recommends that “MCAS testing in this subject should be postponed.”

Student boycotts and opposition have made a difference in Cambridge and Brookline. As a student, you should know your rights in our school system. Here are some questions and answers reprinted with permission from the Citywide Parents Council (617 635-9210).

1. I am in 10th grade. Must I take and pass the MCAS to graduate?

Yes. Unless the Massachusetts Board of Education changes its current policy, students graduating in or after 2003 (including this year’s 10th graders) must take and pass the MCAS to graduate. Students who do not pass the MCAS in 10th grade have a right under state law to take it again in

the 11th and 12th grade to graduate. Under Boston’s Promotion Policy, to graduate, students also must pass required courses. *Note: This year test makers are giving a “try-out” MCAS science test to 10th graders. Neither you nor your school will get science test results. Students do no need to take and pass science try-outs to graduate.*

2. I am in 8th grade. Must I take and pass the MCAS to go to high school?

No. To be promoted to grade 9,

THE BPS CODE OF DISCIPLINE DOES NOT GRANT PRINCIPALS THE POWER TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL A STUDENT FOR FAILURE TO TAKE MCAS.

students must pass 10 of 12 required middle school courses and pass one of the other tests that the Boston Public Schools (BPS) uses to assess skills in reading and math. For example, a student who does not take MCAS can go to grade 9 if she demonstrates, by the end of grade 8 or summer school, skills on one other grade 8 reading and math test used by BPS: Stanford 9 reading and math (level 2 or better); *or* the Scholastic or Qualitative Reading Inventory; *or* the end-of-the-year or summer school BPS Math Test. A student who passes course work but does not pass one of these grade 8 reading and math tests will move to grade 9 as a “transition” student and will receive additional reading and math support in grade 9. *Note: some Boston pilot schools may not use MCAS results or other tests for admission or grade placement.*

4. Can I be punished for circulating petitions or flyers or wearing political buttons or T-shirts against MCAS?

No. The BPS Code of Discipline (1998) acknowledges students rights under the United States Constitution. Students have a right to wear political buttons or T-shirts. Students have a right to distribute petitions and printed materials on school property without prior authorization by school

administrators, provided that materials include the name and address of the individual or sponsoring organization and distribution takes place during periods before school begins, after dismissal, and during lunchtime so as not to interfere with classes. Students have a right to use their own bulletin boards without censorship and to have reasonable access to the public address system and other school media facilities when classes are not in session. In taking political action of any kind, students cannot act in ways that can reasonably be forecast to cause substantial disruption of school or classroom activity or otherwise incite illegal acts.

5. Can I be suspended for choosing not to take MCAS?

No. The BPS Code of Discipline (1998) does not grant principals or teachers the power to suspend, transfer or expel a student for failure to take MCAS or other standardized tests. School officials may discipline a student for *excessive* cutting of classes; but school officials must try less severe sanctions before initiating charges for suspension. According to the Superintendents office, students will be subject to discipline if they disrupt testing. The Superintendent’s office may discipline students who encourage others to boycott the test although such activity may be protected free speech. Students who do not take MCAS will receive a failing score from the Department of Education and the school’s overall average score will be reduced.

6. Can I be forced to go to mandatory summer school?

No. A student does not have to go to summer school, but may enroll by choice. BPS offers a free summer school program for students who do not pass an English language arts or math course or test requirements in grades 5-9. Students in grade 8 who attend summer school in June can move to grade 9 or a transition program in September. Students who do not attend summer school may be held back.

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The Johnny B. Interview: Stephen Dewey

By **JOHNNY B. GREENE, III**
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Argo this issue introduces a new feature: the Johnny B. Interview. Each issue, Johnny B. will select one student from the BLS community doing something interesting and spotlight him in this space. This issue, Stephen Dewey explains his new incarnation of the BLS Debate Team. The team meets after school on Wednesdays in 119.

Q. Does the Debate Team have a history here at Latin?

A. I'm not sure how long the debate club has been here for. What I do know is that at the end of last year, the Debate and Speech Team (then a single club) ended, and only around five of their members were left. So we've really had to start it from scratch this year.

Q. Can you tell us about your judges?

A. Currently our judge is Joe Coffey. In our club charter, a constitution of sorts, it says that the judge is supposed to be either a senior or an adult from outside the school. That's so we can be assured that our judge is a mature person with sound judgment who can look at an argument from both sides – we don't want people winning just because their side is the generally accepted one. So that's why we decided to approach Joe about the position. But if he were unable to fulfill his duties and had to step down, there are former leaders of other debate clubs from around Eastern Massachusetts that we can turn to.

Q. Would one have to try out for the debate club?

A. No, not really. At the same time, we're trying to keep our membership low so that the club is actually manageable, and because obviously, we can't have too many debates at our weekly meetings since every debate lasts a full 15 minutes. For the first few meetings, the membership was a bit too low, because we relied only on word-of-mouth. But our last one was attended by 15-20 enthusiastic students, and that's where we'd like to stay. Anybody intrigued with debate, who's free on Wednesdays after school, is strongly encouraged to come; we won't turn you away.

Q. If someone said to you, "What would I get out of the debate Team?" what would you say?

A. You'll never know unless you come. The team is different things to different people. What I can say is that a large part of what you'll gain from debate team is an ability to deal with intimidation. I'm willing to bet that quite a few of our members are afraid that their political or social views will be attacked in a debate in such a way that they will be unable to justify what they think. Plenty of people who have not debated before have no idea how strong the arguments are against what they take for granted. Coming to debate club might very well change your opinions on more than a few things. But of course you should never admit that during a debate.

Q. Are you going to debate other schools?

A. We'll start debating other schools as soon as we're ready. Until we've got 5 competition-worthy debaters, we shouldn't join a league. From what I saw at our most recent meeting, we could get to that point pretty quickly. But most leagues are fall leagues, anyway. So, we'll almost definitely begin competition next September.

Q. There's been some confusion about the relationship between the Speech Team and the Debate Team. What's going on?

A. Well, originally there was just the Debate Team. But after the paperwork we needed to start the debate team was already filled out and sent in, Hana Yoo told me that she was starting a speech team and wanted to combine the two. So we agreed to do that – but it's really difficult to combine the two clubs because they're quite different. So although we're both involved in each other's clubs, they're definitely separate.

If you'd like to be considered for the Johnny B. interview, place a letter to that effect in the Argo basket in the main office.

In-Depth Review Team Leaves No Stone Unturned

By **QI FENG, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

During the week of February 5, a cadre of dressy professionals meandered in and out of BLS classrooms toting thick, colorful notepads. They were here under Mrs. Kelley's Whole School Improvement School Plan (WSIP), and more specifically, the Superintendent's In-Depth Review (IDR) Process. Teachers and students geared up to show the reviewers that the school is indeed teaching what an exam school is supposed to teach, although many within the school community thought this unnecessary due to our superior MCAS results. Still, everyone complied (a rise in the number of students who sat up straight and participated in class was noticed by this reporter) and the reviewers walked away impressed.

School visits like this are the major component of the IDR. This particular cluster- based teams reviewed the school's portfolio (which includes Formative Assessment Data, SMART goals, and Professional Plan and Budget) and visited the school to collect evidence concerning the school's accomplishments in various areas. All members of the team were trained to gather and interpret data, observe, interview, and review using WSIP rubrics. They concluded the visit by

writing the IDR Summary Report.

The visit and the resulting positive remarks could not have happened without the coordination of different groups of people. The school was represented by the IDR School Portfolio Workgroup, headed by Mrs. Russell. This ensemble of school personnel received training in important WSIP aspects and provided resources for the visiting team when it visited. On, the other hand, the IDR was represented by a diverse range of stakeholders including a Teaching and Learning Support Services team member, an administrator from the BPS, a university or business representative, teachers, and even a parent. BLS attracted extra attention, with BPS Superintendent Thomas Payzant and former Headmaster Michael Contompasis among the illustrious attendees. In the end, The People With the Fancy Names gave out commendations and recommendations to support and assist the school in its process of change.

Like every other public school in Boston, BLS faced its formal accountability review and will again in four years— but that should not instill fear in anyone. In fact, after watching students in Mrs. Shevlin's Writing AP class dissect and analyze contemporary essays, City of Boston Assitant Director of Guidance Peter Lee could not help but nod and smile incessantly. Based on what he saw, Lee later exclaimed that "This is really great." Word.

Ouch! Watch Your Back

By **SPENCER C. SLEEPER, II**
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

So, you thought only older people are the ones that get back problems - annoying aches and dull pains. Well, think again.

After stuffing their backpacks with textbooks, notebooks, food and drink, musical instruments, gym clothing, and personal items. Some students carry loads of up to forty pounds or more!

The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons reports a close link between back and shoulder pain in students and the heavy book-bags that they carry on a daily basis.

If this goes on unchecked, youngsters could end up having serious back problems, such as curvature of the spine. Anyone's

backpack that weighs more than twenty percent of their body weight would best be transported "on wheels, have belts for their hips, or have padded backs" reports Mexico City's newspaper *Excelsior*.



In any case, if you experience back or shoulder aches, talk to your parents and/or your family doctor, pediatrician, or the school nurse. They should be able provide you with the best solution. And if you must carry something other than books, then try to place some of the items in another bag, which will take off some load off your back and shoulders.

Fun In The Bathroom

By **GUY DEBROS, I**
STAFF WRITER

Picture yourself back in September. You walk through a door and arrive at something sleek and silver. You push it open to reveal a regular, run-of-the-mill toilet, the same toilet you were accustomed to seeing last year. But these toilets, although they may seem familiar, are in fact newly-revamped Boston Latin School toilets.

Yes, bathrooms can be somewhat exiting. A few years ago former Headmaster Contompasis told us that he hand-painted all of the bathroom stalls with a sponge. Whether he did it will not be disputed in this article. The fact remains that the bathrooms consisted of partitions painted in spongy patterns of blue, pink, gray, and a few other colors that may have changed over the years.

The new partitions are made of metal. The old ones were made of layers of paint, but rumor has it that the cores were made of plastic. The sponge pattern was probably intended as a deterrent to graffiti, although its functionality is questionable. The new metal partitions are easily tagged but also easily cleaned. Gone with the plastic partitions are plastic toilet paper dispensers of yore, which were easily dismantled to obtain that coveted roll of tissue. Back then most stalls didn't have locks; the main doors to the bathrooms did, and the bathrooms were locked during sporadic hours during the day.

The new bathrooms come as part of the huge construction going on around school - that's right, and the

reason why you didn't notice the construction was because you were cramming for your test on the way to class. The new bathrooms are open more often. They come equipped with locked toilet paper dispensers and locked paper towel dispensers near the sinks. The sinks are the same, but those metal boxes in between them have been given a new life. You might have thought of them as convenient places on which to put a book or another item of value while washing your hands. Well, as it turns out, those metal boxes are soap dispensers. And they are full of soap. And if you're one of those lucky people who feels the call before school starts, you'll get to see the different colors of disinfectant in each toilet bowl, added each night to wait for the first flush the next morning.

Praise for the new bathrooms abound. One student exclaimed "It's good!" Due to his high position on the Argo staff, he declined further comment. One female student also agrees that they have improved, and that the new paper towel dispensers are nice. Another clueless classmate of mine answered my question with another: "We have new bathrooms?" Yes, we do.

After all this, you may wonder what could possibly be so special about a change in the way we alleviate our most pressing concerns. In the end, there is only one major difference between the old bathrooms and the new ones. Even more condescending than the old system of locking doors to promote healthy walks through corridors in search of an open lavatory are new, somewhat subtle but not-to-be-overlooked signs on each and every door. Fellow students, we are no longer men and women. We are now boys and girls.

Ward Fellowships For BLS Students

By **EUGENE KREYDIN, I**
NEWS EDITOR

Every summer, BLS students flock to businesses all over Boston in search of jobs. They find a place to earn some extra cash and get some valuable experience at department stores, computer companies, banks, and hospitals. Many of these opportunities, such as the State Street Bank internships, are sponsored by our very own Alma Mater. Among these is the John William Ward Public Service Fellowship, or Ward Fellowship for short.

This program, offered by the BLS Association to incoming and graduating seniors, allows students to work in the offices of elected or appointed public officials on federal, state, and municipal levels. Offices that accept BLS students include the United States District Court, the Governor's Office, Speaker Thomas Finneran's Office, Senate President Thomas Birmingham's Office, Mayor Thomas Menino's Office, City Councilor Stephen Murphy's Office, the District Attorney Ralph Martin's Office, the Boston Globe and several others. In all, there are 15 positions offered to BLS students.

Although working in these offices may be tedious sometimes, the Ward Fellows get much more than simple busywork. Many interns participate in meetings with their hosts, and provide valuable policy input for their offices. Several times each week, the fellows get together and visit each of their employers. In these meetings, students are given a chance to get acquainted with the philosophies of the various Ward Fellow sponsors.

The Ward Fellowship was organized in 1985 by the Honorable Judge Wolf of the U.S. District Court in memory of his friend and mentor, Boston Latin School graduate John William Ward. Since then, the program has had more than a

community involvement, academic ability, application essays and an interview. Ultimately, the most important pieces of the puzzle are the essay and the interview conducted by Judge Wolf and an alumnus of the program.

The students begin work in the end of June or the beginning of July. The fellowship lasts for approximately eight weeks, but it is often possible to arrange to continue working during the school year. For the duration of the summer, the students are paid approximately three hundred dollars a week and work from nine to five every day of the workweek. Besides great experience, there are other benefits to the Ward Fellowship. Many juniors that have participated in the Fellowship can get college recommendations from their sponsors, and seniors can get an excellent reference.

The selection process for the program begins in the latter part of March, when applicants submit their essays. After careful review of the personal statement, students may be invited for an interview. There are approximately fifty applicants each year, of which twenty-five are selected for an interview, and fifteen for the job.

The Ward Fellowship is intended to acquaint students with public service and working in a civic environment. In the words of John William Ward, the students learn that "one must act as if one can make a difference."



hundred participants and with each year the number of hosts and interns has increased. Students are selected based on

Tolerance and Respect Committee Seeks To Bridge The Gap

By **LULY ILIEV, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last year, a group of teachers, students and parents came together to discuss the social problems connected with discrimination that have occurred at BLS, as well as other teen issues concerning them. Not too long after they formed the Tolerance and Respect Committee, taking a step towards teaching the student body and faculty members how to prevent verbal and physical abuse resulting from prejudice. They met every other Thursday to talk about the issues they have encountered in our school and to suggest ways of strengthening and improving the relationships between students and teachers.

In the numerous meetings, they worked on a plan to interact with the students and share their concerns and suggestions. Students, parents, and teachers from both main building and the annex held the meetings with Mr. Osinubi the head of the committee.

On July 19th, 2000, the hard work of its members was displayed through a tolerance and respect program taking place in the auditorium of the main building. There, the students listened to the main speaker, Mr. Mark Mainella, who talked to them about the social issues which affect teens today. They continued the program by creating workshops in which the students got a chance to voice their own opinions

and to discuss those issues with other students. Representatives from organizations such as the Patriots Trail Girl Scouts Council came to help with the discussions.

The day was a success. Students participated in the discussions and some felt that they learned a great deal from this. Although the members of the Tolerance and Respect Comitee have not had an official meeting since the school year started, there are still people who wish to continue the Tolerance and Respect Committee's hard work and start dealing with those issues again. School should be a place where children are safe from verbal and physical violence. But in everyday life, subjects like religion and race do come up in students' conversations. The committee's plan was to teach people how to accept different opinions, abstain from violence, and encourage them to embrace religions different from their own.

If you are a student who cherishes the different cultures and backgrounds in the BLS community, then you should take the initiative to keep a safe and comfortable atmosphere in your own community. By joining the Tolerance and Respect Committee you will help to make a difference.

All the members appreciates the cooperation of the student body and faculty members in the program last year and look forward a new year of reforms at BLS. Meetings will be posted.

FHAO Goes To Washington

By **ANDREW BARR, I**
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

About 100 Facing History students took over our nation's capital this weekend, competing with the National Basketball Association and the No Limit Soldiers to take advantage of the city's resources in a trip that can only be called fun-ducational.

Leaving on a 6 A.M. Sunday morning train, the students arrived glassy-eyed and droop-tailed at Union Station Sunday afternoon, only to have those eyes opened by visits to the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. This was followed by a long walk down the Mall to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and a twilight visit to the Lincoln Memorial.

Students then explored the Washington culinary scene (or the Burger King up the street from the hotel) and returned to find NBA All-Stars and several members of the rap group founded by Master P sharing the hotel with them. Tourism and the excitement of being in a hotel in a strange city gave way to unmitigated star-gawking, as the glitterati,

fresh from the NBA All-Star Game at the Capital Center, filed into the lobby and shared elevators with the student.s.

Monday morning, the intrepid adventurers awoke and journeyed to the Capitol itself for a tour of the Senate. The afternoon was spent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, where the students were able to augment their FHAO teachings about the Holocaust with first-hand sources and a talk with survivor Nesse Godin. This was the highlight of the trip for many, as evidenced by their solemn reflection as they moved through the museum.

The trip back was uneventful. Well, as uneventful as a nine-hour trip that rolled into Boston at 6:30 A.M. could be. Although students were exhausted and some were even planning to go to school that day, everyone managed to have a rollicking good time on the train, even the chaperones, who received universal acclaim for managing such an ambitious trip. Ms. Freeman, who led the expedition, was hopeful that the rousing success of this venture could pave the way for future educational junkets to New York and Worcester. Students' comments were mostly incomprehensible due to a lack of sleep, but they generally seemed to be in agreement.

Nevins' Farm Draws Volunteers

By **NANCY LEE, III & ANITA YIP, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & COPY EDITOR

Every Sunday afternoon a group of BLS students headed by Ms. O'Malley travels to the MSPCA Nevins' Farm up in Methuen where they volunteer their time to take care of animals in need of love and attention. Nevins' Farm includes an equine center for horses, a barn for chickens, ducks, geese, and pigs, and a small animal shelter for dogs and cats. Some of these animals were found without proper shelter, in need of medical attention, or suffering from malnutrition. Most of these cases came about not because of deliberate cruelty but because of ignorance. The animals at MSPCA have been given another chance to find a home.

One of the horses cared for at the farm is Flash, a ten-year-old Clydesdale gelding that nearly died from starvation. His previous owners had chained him to a post, giving him no exercise. With his hind muscles deteriorated and the long period of starvation, Flash was left in a horrible condition, being unable to stand. After Flash was brought to Nevins' Farm, the staff did everything possible to help Flash. At times, Flash's future seemed grim, but his determination and trementdous spirit helped him through his bind. Flash is no in foster care with a woman who helped take care of him at his darkest moments and who will eventually adopt Flash after his medical clearance.

All the animals at the farm have their stories. The new flock of sheep including Mozzarella, Cloud, Gabriella, and Isabella hangs out in their pasture, which is next to the pigpen and the coop. Rae and Missy, who are Yorkshire pigs born at Nevins' three years ago, live in the pigpen next to the coop which houses the chickens, ducks, and geese. Out of our bovine friends at the farm, Oreo and Muffin stand out the most. Oreo, a belted Galloway steer was headed to the slaughter-house but instead came to the farm. Now he is close friends with Muffin, a white-faced Hereford cross. The two spend their time in the pasture with Brown Swiss heifers. All of these animals are mild-tempered and accustomed to people, so hopefully they will be part of new families soon.

There are other animals who have either been abused, neglected, or even found astray and are waiting for someone to adopt them. Please, help support these forlorn animals. They need blankets, old sweaters, and towels to keep warm and anything else you can donate, whether it be grooming supplies or small treats. Donations are greatly appreciated and they may be brought to Ms. O'Malley in G1. For further information on how you can make a contribution, you may go to Nevins' Farm Web Site at <http://www.mspca.org>

Forum

Andrew Barr VS Ryan DiAngelis
Professional Sports Players
Over-Played or Over-Paid?

BY ANDREW BARR, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It has come to my attention that it is possible to purchase, for around \$2,500, small bags of saline fluid so that they may be inserted into your chest for the purpose of making people think you have larger breasts than you actually do. To me, this seems a little ridiculous. I mean, Kleenex work just as well (I've been told), and you can pick up a box of those for 49 cents at Walgreens. But if you have the money and you really, really attach some sentimental significance to your mammaries, I say bully for you. It's your cash, I'm glad you've spent it in a way that indirectly benefits...well, no one. But no one is harmed, and that's the important thing.

Anyway, meet Tom Hicks. Tom is a very rich man who owns a baseball team, the Texas Rangers. Tom is proud of his team and wants it to do well so that he can brag to the other rich guys about having the most athletic and successful bunch of young men under his employment. Problem so far? Of course not, let the rich folk amuse themselves as they will, as long as it doesn't affect the rest of us. Tom becomes aware that he can purchase the services of a certain young man who plays baseball as well as anyone else on the planet. The best way to secure his services is to offer him a large sack of money. Tom does so. The young man agrees to play for Tom's team.

So what is the problem here? The young man can buy islands and color televisions and Deluxe Premium Frozen Yogurt instead of the regular crap we stiff's have to gulp down. Tom can sit in the special chair at the Rich Guys' Club (or he could if his pitching didn't suck). No one is hurt here.

Ryan, no doubt, not being a sports fan, would have you believe that doctors or teachers or copy editors should be receiving huge contracts, not shortstops. This is ridiculous. What does Tom Hicks want with a teacher? He owns a baseball team. Would you rather he sit there, lighting stogies with his money? Ryan's argument contains a faulty premise, namely that if sports stars didn't receive such bloated paychecks, the truly deserving among us would have more money for breast implants, etc. Well, for the truly deserving among us, it's already too late. Want teachers to make more money? Take it up with the City of Boston. Want copy editors to make more money? Take it up with...well, with me. But neither the city nor I has a piggybank the size of Tom Hicks's.

And we should not be criticizing athletes for taking every cent they can get. I refuse to be optimistic enough about human nature so as to suggest that, were a teacher offered \$252 million to teach, she would say, "Thanks, but I'm only worth the first \$13 million." And if professional athletes were as underpaid as teachers and copy editors, would we even have professional athletes? Why would you put your body through such contortions in an effort that namby-pamby Forum Editors ridicule as unimportant? It sure wouldn't be for the groupies or the adulation, that's for sure. Jonah tells me that his groupies are attracted mainly to his money anyway.

Oh, and another thing. Sometimes players sign huge contracts and then break their legs or suddenly begin to throw like girls (the untalented kind. . . no angry letters, please). That's not a horrible example of money wasted. It's funny! Albert Belle signed a 5-year, \$51 million contract with the Baltimore Orioles. You should have seen this press conference, with the old guys in suits representing the Orioles looking so thrilled to have this dour, angry, menacing bloke with forearms like canned hams on their side. Ah, greed. . .

Yeah, then Albert got some sort of chronic arthritis problem in his hip. He's worth about as much to the Orioles now as I am. Now, if he were a minimum-wage employee, this might be a sad situation. A man will never sign another contract to play the game he loves. A team and its fans have lost their slugger. But, since the O's threw a lot of money at Albert, we can all have a good laugh. Ha-HA! Silly Orioles!

Look, Tom Hicks and the other rich guys who run professional sports have an awful lot of money, and nowhere else, really, to spend it. Of course they're going to spend it on talent. The real question is, why would anyone begrudge anyone else for cashing in on their talent? Especially copy editors who raelly aRe Unecsarry aneewase.

Andrew Barr is Generalissimo of the Argo and a damn fine swing dancer.

BY RYAN DIANGELIS, I
FORUM EDITOR

In an interview with Sports Center, Texas Rangers shortstop Alex "A-Rod" Rodriguez stated, "Somebody wins a lottery and they're a national hero. Somebody works their butt off and he's a devil. I've made the progression to this point and I can't feel guilty."

Define "works their butt off." The most powerful man in the world, President George W. Bush, makes (in comparison) a paltry \$200,000 a year. Alex Rodriguez, a former free-agent shortstop for the Seattle Mariners, recently signed a 10-year contract with the Texas Rangers for—get this—\$252 million. As in, \$25,200,000 a year. \$500,000 a week. You can just see the dollar signs cha-chinging in his eyes—and the amazement in the eyes of fans everywhere.

A school teacher, earning \$46,000 a year, would have to work for 548 years to make the \$25.2 million Rodriguez will make in one year. A bartender, making \$15,000 a year, would need to work for the next 1,680 years. Insane? I thought so.

Rodriguez can't be blamed and certainly shouldn't be expected to feel guilty. Americans put such a huge importance on sports players that it makes sense for them to demand so much money. Professional sports are as much a part of American culture as apple pie. They define what it means to be American—small children grow up wanting to be the next Michael Jordan, Mo Vaughn, or Tiger Woods—not George Washington or Neil Armstrong. While our culture idolizes sports figures with million dollar endorsements, more influential and important figures are often brushed aside.

There is no doubt that the amount of money some professional sports players make is absurd. Alex Rodriguez joins many others in their quest to earn top dollar for playing a sport. In November, the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, Richard Williams, demanded that the family receive more money. He argued that his daughters have brought "a ton of money" to women's tennis, and therefore they should receive an equal share of the money. If not, Richard Williams promised that his daughters would not continue to participate in as many tournaments as expected. The Boston Red Sox signed outfielder Manny Ramirez in December for an outrageous \$160 million over the next eight years.

Let us not forget that the Red Sox are in the process of building a new stadium, a project that is slated to cost an estimate \$545 million, \$200 million of which is expected to come from the taxpayer's pockets. While the Sox sign high priced, high profile players, it is only the taxpayers who are suffering from the exorbitant price tag.

In a perfect world, sports players receiving such large amounts of money might be conceivable. However, our world is far from perfect, and there are so many issues that are more pressing than making sure a baseball player gets an extra \$50 million to keep him on the team. \$252 million would go a long way in building new schools, financing special education, aiding the elderly and poor, or helping out scores of single parents. \$252 million is an amazingly large amount of money, which no single person will ever conceivably need nor use in their lifetime.

What professional sport teams need is a sensible salary cap which not only limits the amount of money players receive, but also gives players the amount of money they legitimately deserve. The National Basketball Association has made a sorry attempt at this. The NBA salary cap states each team has only a certain amount of money to distribute amongst its players, and each player can only receive a certain salary, depending upon seniority.

Grant Hill, popularly considered one of the best players in the NBA, was traded to the Orlando Magic in August 2000 to improve the team's record. When the season began Hill was suffering from an injured foot, which prevented him from playing. Once off the injured list, he played four games before re-aggravating his injured foot. Hill will be unable to play for the rest of this season. His contract, which granted him \$9,658,000 a year, is still in effect—meaning that, although he only played in four games, a total of 133 minutes, and scored just 55 points, he still made nearly \$10 million.

Sport players are exactly that—players. They make no real contribution to society and cannot honestly compare themselves to the hard-working, blue-collar workers, the people throwing down for the high-priced tickets that pay the players' salaries.

Ryan DiAngelis is Mayor of Dayton, Ohio.

Forum Question

In December of 2000, the Texas Rangers signed shortstop Alex Rodriguez to a new contract, guaranteeing him a record \$252 million over the next ten years. The Boston Red Sox followed suit, signing Manny Ramirez for \$160 million over the next eight years. Athletes' salaries are continually increasing, and are now regularly in the millions of dollars, in sports ranging from baseball, to tennis, to golf. The Argo recently asked students representing a cross-section of the school whether or not they think professional sports players should make as much money as they do.



"I don't believe anyone deserves to make that much money, especially athletes who contribute nothing of value to society."
— Sherar Andalcio, I

"Yes, because they work hard and their lives are so public."
— Jenn Dalia, II



"No, because that means lower payroll teams can't dish out that much money for a high-profile player. There should be salary restrictions."
— Ross Howard, III

"No. I don't think that, compared to how hard other people work, sports players should make so much money. They just don't do enough."
— Katherine Pittore, IV



"No, because the amount they are paid is ridiculous. One year of their paycheck is all the money you can ever dream of."
— Phil Burke, V

"No. I think the money should go to more important sources."
— Meghan O'Donnell, VI

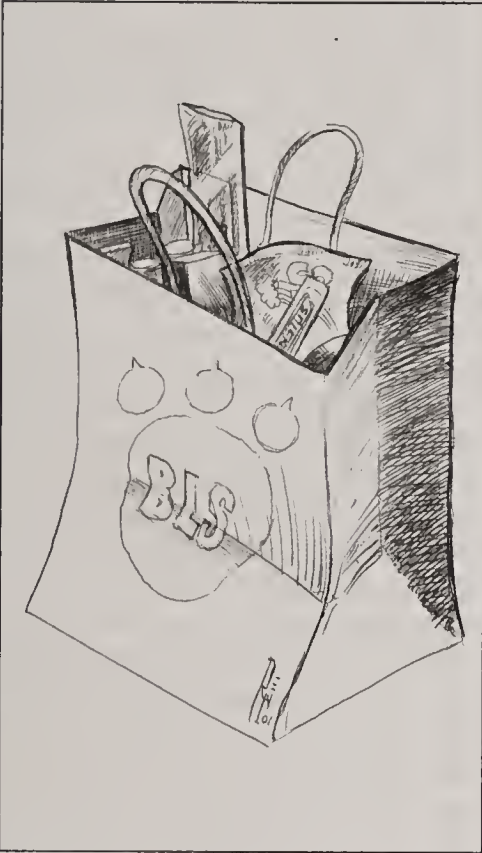
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Bag Spirit Pals

By ELIZABETH ARIAS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

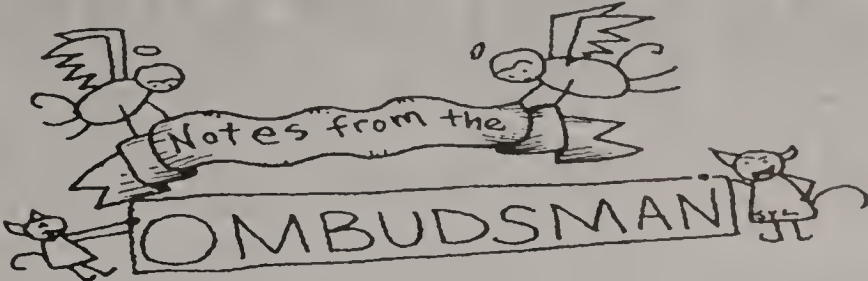
“Spirit Pal” bags are the single most dividing aspect of sports at Boston Latin. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this so-called tradition, Spirit Pals, items are purchased and presented in a large bag every game day through a club to a team member. The Blue-Line Club, Foul-Line Club, and Grid-Iron Club are all clubs that have been established for this sole purpose. In return for their commitment and idolatry, they are promised a dinner which usually never takes place.

One may wonder, what could possibly be wrong with a practice geared towards promoting school spirit, a sentiment undeniably lacking at our school? Everything! Spirit Pals seem to increase tensions between those who receive and those who do not. While the most popular sports—football, hockey, and basketball—are all represented, the rest of the boys’ teams are overlooked and the girls’ teams are not even considered.



While some members on the hockey team have as many as three spirit pals, the majority of students involved with sports are left empty-handed. At times, it seems players are only interested in seeing who among them has the most fans. There also tends to be a lack of appreciation from those who do receive such.

The purpose behind Spirit Pals is in itself well-intentioned, but in reality the practice promotes some teams at the expense of others. A logical solution would be for girls who play hockey to give Spirit Pals to the boys and vice-versa. The same could be applicable for basketball. Yet this still leaves all others with that bitter feeling that the more popular sports continue to gain all the benefits and all others are forgotten. Some teams, such as the swim team, have taken matters into their own hands by distributing Spirit Pal bags within the team and lending each other support and motivation. For now, the rest of us will continue to stomach this outpouring of support to those that need it least.



By DIEGO MCCAFFERTY, I
OMBUDSMAN

Hell has frozen over. That’s right, I finally received an actual complaint. And a valid one too. OK, OK...I’m getting a little overexcited. Gotta calm down. That’s better:

Dear Ombudsman,
I’m writing to express my horrible disgust at the state of the Argo. The Argo is in a unique position to be the voice of the students, to express what many of us are thinking. Unfortunately, the Argo has failed to fulfill this noble role. The Argo has always seemed less interested in expressing the needs of the student than in being the organ of the BLS administration in a weak attempt to be even-handed and not anger the source of the Argo’s funding. While many students have complaints about the way the school is run, I would defy the Argo to cite three examples of comments critical of the administration over the last year. I wish that the Argo would spend less time being even-handed and more time telling the truth!

-Mad in the Mac-Lab

Well...Mad, *cough cough*, you bring up an excellent point, one I have heard from many students. In fact, my earliest recollections of the Argo are of a newspaper not “by the students. for the students,” but rather “by the talented tenth of Latin, for the administration.” Public consensus, whether you agree with it or not, is that the paper is in the pocket of the Man.

But how true are these allegations? I went right to the source, head-Editorissimo-in-chief, Andy Barr. He responded, “I would suggest that, contrary to the author’s idea of ‘even-handed’ coverage as vitriolic and misinformed slamming of anyone over the age of 21, the Argo provides extremely even-handed coverage in that we do not run articles of a vein similar to the one expressed by ‘Mad in the Mac-Lab.’ Perhaps the author’s quibble is not with the Argo’s failure to print ‘comments critical of the administration,’ but with his own inability to formulate complaints cogent enough to warrant broadcasting to a larger audience.” Me-ow. Saucer of milk, table 1!

Seeing as I barely understood that, I instead addressed Mad’s challenge. I took it upon myself to scour a year’s worth of Argo issues in an attempt to find three examples of administration-critical comments...a whole year. Sigh.

This is what I came up with:

“...the administration and teaching staff do not consistently show a corresponding amount of enthusiasm and faith in our student body.” (Volume XXIX, Issue IV, p. 13, “Losing Sight of the Goal,” by Lev Grossman-Spivack)

“The articles [in the Argo]...are all hashed stories, handpicked by the faculty administration.” (Volume XXX, Issue I, p. 10, “Notes from the Ombudsman,” by Diego McCafferty)

...and my favorite:
“The answer to many students’ complaints [about the administration] is as simple as sugar for their coffee, toilet paper for their bathrooms, and a little understanding.” (Volume XXX, Issue II, p. 10, “Arcane Policies Leave Bitter Taste,” by [tee-hee] Andrew Barr)

I’ll admit that these aren’t exactly “ground-shaking”, but they do expertly refute Mad’s early argument. However, to come to a final conclusion, the Argo is not in the business of protecting the administration. I work here, and I would know. To make the complaint that the Argo

The Argo has never censored anything. The Argo has never submitted an article to the administration for approval prior to publication And, most important, the Argo has never rejected an article on the grounds that it was critical of the administration.

is defending the administration is an invalid one, completely devoid of any factual evidence. To be quite honest, if you have a problem with anything in this school, if you take 45 minutes out of your oh-so-busy schedule to come up to the Mac Lab and write about it, the chances are that anything journalistically sound will be printed. The Argo has never censored anything. The Argo has never submitted an article to the administration for approval prior to publication. And, most importantly, the Argo has never rejected an article on the grounds that it was critical of the administration. Moreover, people who address complaints as “Mad in the Mac-Lab” tend never to be particularly popular.

And, furthermore...now I’ve lost interest. Look, a shiny object! So sleepy...
Monkey.
Help make the Argo better by writing me at ombudsman@bbsargo.org. My time is a terrible thing to waste.

Submit editorials by sending them to editors@bbsargo.org. Make your voice heard!

Rocket From Your Pocket

By MAX ESKIN, I
FORUM LAYOUT EDITOR

The National Missile Defense program was started by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 as the Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly referred to as Star Wars. It was passed down to Bush Senior, and then to Clinton. Now Bush Junior intends to “accelerate research on, and deployment of, both national and theater missile defenses, as soon as possible.” If Bush succeeds in his plan, it will mean an enormous waste of money and the undoing of the progress made in controlling the spread of nuclear weapons over the past three decades.

The main purpose of the program is a defense against ballistic missiles, which can be launched from either a submarine or land. They take several minutes to fly out into space, to a maximum altitude of approximately 200 miles. The multiple warheads then separate from the missile body and re-enter the atmosphere to hit their target. The total flight time of a missile is around half an hour.

Defense would involve coordinating thousands of satellites with each other and with human command, while maintaining the capability to destroy the missiles within a few minutes of their launch (before they separate into multiple warheads and decoys). In addition to this, the satellites absolutely must not false-alarm; the network may be damaged in any number of ways during a war and has to keep working;

the satellites have to protect themselves against anti-satellite defenses; and all of this is based on predictions of what nuclear war might be like. Now the system’s absurd complexity becomes visible. The project is technically equivalent to the tower of Babel. Also consider that even the relatively simple task of firing a cruise missile at a stationary target proves very difficult, as American forces learned in the Gulf War and Yugoslavia. To fire a missile at a moving target with little or no advance warning is much harder. Indeed, two of three recent Pentagon demonstrations of this failed (more upcoming demonstrations have been announced), The United States did at one point have a ground-based system at one missile silo, but it was abandoned in 1975 because it became clear that it was useless.

The attempt may, however, still be made to build the system. The problem is that the United States signed a treaty with Russia in 1972 called the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, where the two countries agreed not to develop anti-ballistic missile defenses. Bush has not forgotten about this treaty and suggests that “the United States should offer Russia necessary amendments to the Cold War-era ABM Treaty to permit deployment of effective national and theater missile defenses. If Russia refuses those changes, the United States should give prompt notice, under the treaty, that we will withdraw from it”

Nuclear war has so far been prevented because anyone who attacks has the assurance that they will be destroyed as well. This is called “deterrence,” or “mutually assured destruction.” But it is much easier to defend against an expected attack than a surprise one. If nuclear defenses became allowed, then every nuclear power would have a significant incentive to strike first, because they would be ready to defend against the response. The balance of deterrence would become much more precarious, and the world would edge toward war.

It seems that to pay even a penny for a system that will make nuclear war more likely while being absolutely useless to defend against it is a waste of money, but of course a penny is not the actual cost. Indeed, if the pennies needed to pay for the project were stacked one on top of the other, the stack would reach to Mars and back. That’s right, one trillion dollars is the projected price tag.

The number of problems in the world today is truly overwhelming. There is poverty, disease, lack of cafeteria seats, pollution—all issues that seem impossible to solve. Elimination of this project is possible and very important. If enough letters are sent from enough people, it will be stopped. At any rate, I urge people not to vote for anyone who supports the NMD program. If we let it go on, it may cost us much more than the insides of our pockets.

Special: Student Support at BLS

Interview With Mr. Montague

By **REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As part of our special section on student support, the Argo interviewed Mr.. Montague, the new Program Director of Guidance and Support Services, to get a sense of his plans and ideas for future improvements in this area.

Argo: Students have criticized the administration for not being responsive to the needs of students. How would you respond to this?

Mr. Montague: I'm disappointed to hear that students feel that the administration is unresponsive. I'm also surprised since the Head Master worked very hard to create my position as Program Director for Guidance and Support Services. This is a position that is unique in the Boston Public Schools and it was made clear to me when I interviewed for this job that Ms. Kelley felt BLS needed a more effective and well-coordinated approach to meeting students needs. While I have only been here for five months, I think that we have begun to do a better job of addressing these needs and we are working hard to identify those that still need attention. *What are your ideas for making the school community a more supportive environment?*

I believe that students need to feel that there are teachers, counselors, nurses, and administrators who care about them as individuals and who will be responsive to their concerns and needs. Your question suggests that we still have work to do and I hope that students will help us identify areas that need improvement. I believe that without the active participation of students, any efforts to improve the atmosphere and environment at BLS will be less than successful. Students must begin to feel connected to the school through meaningful relationships with the professional staff. We are in the process of restructuring the Guidance Department in an effort to insure that students get to know and be known by their assigned counselor over a four-year period. It is our hope and expectation that this will enable students to be better supported and help them feel more connected to the counseling staff.

Do you feel that the students' complaints about the pressures of BLS are generally justified?

There is no doubt that the high academic expectations students find at Latin School cause many students to feel pressure to succeed. I am not in favor of lowering academic standards

but I am convinced we need to do a better job of helping students meet those standards. If students are feeling that our expectation is that they "sink or swim" and only the most able should survive, then we must work to change that perception. During my first month on the job I attended an assembly of "sixies" where I heard Ms. Kelley say to our newest students that they needed to help each other if they hoped to all make it to graduation. I was impressed with this message because Ms. Kelley was encouraging cooperation rather than competition and I think we all need to work together to insure that this happens. In that regard, I feel it is most important that we search for ways to insure that all members of this school community - students, parents, and the professional staff - can communicate effectively with each other. This implies that we all work to identify more effective approaches to reducing any unnecessary pressures that some students currently feel.

Is it possible for a school as large as BLS to have a personal and supportive atmosphere?

It is difficult but not impossible. The size of the school suggests that it is possible for some students to get lost and "fall between the cracks." As a result, I believe it is very important that we work hard to insure that some students are not being overlooked. I hope that our reevaluation of the approaches being used in Guidance and Support Services will help us identify better ways to meet the needs of more students. I trust that our professional staff will work to insure that no student feels left out or ignored. I am encouraged by what I have seen happening this year as our school community helped each other deal with the painful loss of two of our students. I sensed that students felt there were many adults who recognized the pain they were feeling and were willing to go out of their way to support and assist them in trying to come to terms with their feelings.

Has the city been a resource or a hindrance since you've worked at Latin?

I think we could use more support in terms of professional staff, something that is contingent upon money from the city. I would like to see first and foremost, an additional full-time nurse. I would also like a full-time School Psychologist, another secretary in Guidance, and an additional Guidance Counselor

What are your specific goals as head of guidance?

Our first goal should be to insure that each student receives all the support and assistance necessary to achieve his or her full potential as a student and as a person. I would hope that all students will eventually feel a close bond with their guidance counselor. My expectation is that our efforts to reorganize the department will allow counselors more opportunities to develop a healthy and helpful relationship with each student. Beyond this primary objective I hope that we can develop effective approaches and strategies to insure that each student

is able to identify, prepare strong applications to, and eventually be admitted to colleges that will meet their needs. *Quick: 3 concrete changes that would improve students' days at BLS.*

Since there are no easy answers to questions about how we might more effectively meet the needs of students and help them address problems and concerns that affect their lives, I am reluctant to respond to this question.

What can students do to help speed this process (obtaining their goals and making these changes)?

Students can work with us to identify their most pressing concerns and needs. Let us know when and if current school policies are inhibiting student growth and development. Work with the teachers, counselors, nurses, and administrators to insure that students are being well served. I hope that students will feel free to share their ideas, thoughts and suggestions as we try to build an array of services that do meet the needs of all students.

How much of a toll do events like Tam's death take on support staff?

Tam's death affected every member of the school community including all members of the professional staff. Since many of these professionals felt a strong connection to Tam, they were devastated by the news. I'm not sure that many students had the opportunity to see the adults crying. However, there were many who were very distraught. In many cases I observed members of our staff struggling with their own grief as they attempted to help students through this period. I was very proud of their efforts and I hope that students can appreciate how difficult it was for all of us.

What helps you get up in the morning?

A very loud alarm clock. Once I am awake though, it doesn't take me long to remember that I have the best job in the world. I get in to school by 6:00 a.m. because I like to get organized before the day begins. The most rewarding aspect of what I do is working with BLS students. I have been most impressed by the students who attend this school. It is a pleasure to have the chance to work with so many wonderful young people and, as a result, I look forward to each day.

Why do we have a Dean of Discipline but not a Dean of Students? If we had one, would you be interested in the job?

I don't really know the answer to this one and it is probably something that should be explored further. However if such a job were created, I would have no interest. I think I have a position in the school community where I can make a difference in the lives of at least some students. I would not want to risk this to try something that might not offer as many opportunities to interact with students. I think that BLS is fortunate to have many adults working in the Guidance and Support Services area who truly care about students. I look forward to continuing my work with them as we try to improve the level of services being offered and attempt to find new ways to meet the needs of all students.

Lessons To Be Learned

By **DOUGLAS LE, I & CATHERINE ANDERSON, I**
Contributing Writers

Last week, we lost Tam Pham. No one can make sense of this death, and no one knows how they could have helped her. This is the problem; there is not an adequate support system at the Boston Latin School to have helped her. One of the few effective support systems at the school has developed through the Gay/Straight Alliance. The Gay/Straight Alliance was started in 1994 in response to the homophobic attitude that had been accepted at the Latin school since its founding. The GSA is unique because it is one of the few clubs at this school that provides personal support for its members. It provides a safe space for students to be completely open and to help one another.

This form of support is lacking at the Latin School. After Tam's death, the teachers and guidance counselors were there to help students with their grief, but one must ask why it took such a tragedy for the school to come together. Students have little faith in those adults who are there to provide support, so they seek aid from their parents and friends. However, the people to whom they often turn are very rarely able to help them with concerns such as suicide, depression, and self-destruction. The administration is inaccessible. As a freshman, I lost a close friend to suicide. I saw him sink into his depression and suffered my grief alone. I felt that the people who were there to give me guidance would not be able to give me the support I needed, and the people around me could not know where to begin in giving me support. I hope that any future student would be able to find the assistance I did not.

The administration is not wholly at fault for the inadequacy in guidance that has existed for so long. Guidance counselors are swamped with paperwork, teachers are

overloaded with students, and students are often too preoccupied with success and achievement to look out for their peers. However, change is possible and necessary. Generally, the BLS community is insensitive and uneducated about a number of concerns that affect students. The attitude at Boston Latin needs to change. The GSA should be used as a model for what the school can do next. The school needs to establish a lasting system of student support with a focus on their personal well-being. There needs to be an emphasis on the knowledge and open discussion of problems which have always been stigmatized. This support needs to involve the students. The power behind the GSA is its peer-leadership. Speakers and lectures are ineffective and fail to reach anyone. It would be truly tragic if the school continued on as if it had learned nothing from Tam's death.

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Looking Forward at BLS

By **REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In the wake of Tam's death, there has been a lot of dialogue about what can be done to make BLS a more supportive and less alienating atmosphere. While no one person or institution can be blamed for such a tragedy, the situation raises a lot of important questions. BLS has done a lot of work to provide academic support to its students, but it seems to fall short when it comes to emotional support. While there are services made available in Guidance and Health, how effective can they really be if students feel that in a general way they are not respected or treated as human beings?

A group of students met with Mr. Montague recently, hoping to find some answers; what the group realized was that it was necessary to first identify the key questions. What is the appropriate course of action to take after a death like this occurs? Do we educate students about depression and the issues that come along with that, and if so, how do we do that in a preventative and meaningful way? Will it be effective to educate students about depression and make more support services available, if the students feel that the atmosphere is one of indifference, and that they are not valued as individuals?

The group came to the conclusion that while it is great to "think big," that is, discuss the extreme changes that students want to make at BLS, it is much more productive to come up with small things that can be done in the meantime. And in order for any lasting changes to be made, underclassmen need to get involved in this process as well.

Special: Student Support at BLS

How to Deal When You Don't Know How

By ERIN BURKE, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Billy walks down the hall with a smile and the occasional high five to his buddies, giving off the impression of a normal well-adjusted teenage boy. However, Billy is wearing a mask that shields everyone from knowing that satisfaction is a feeling he rarely experiences. When he goes home at night, the smile disappears and the anxiety of trying to fool the world is lifted off his shoulders. But at the same time a new anxiety sets in. "What if my grades aren't high enough, what if I don't get into that school, what if I don't get that scholarship, what if I cannot please everyone who places their unbelievably high expectations on me?" Although some students are more than willing to go to a teacher or adult for help when they feel overwhelmed, others prove to be masters at concealing the problems that plague them. It is this inability to detect overstressed, unhappy, and depressed students that is disturbing, but what is even more disturbing is the students' inability to reach out for help.

Attending Boston Latin School sometimes burns out even the best of us. At the singular mention of the name of BLS, parents go into a swirl about how their sons and daughters can't wait to attend here. Meanwhile, their children are seven, eight, nine years old, and are being tutored to go to a school they won't even attend for three or more years. In coming here, children drill themselves into learning latin roots, algebra rules, and english techniques at the age of 12, while their non-Latin friends are out playing basketball and enjoying their lack of homework. Even at such a young age, students have to deal with establishing themselves as superior students and must hope to continually please their teachers and parents.

At the same time, competition is predominant here , and the need to have the best rank possible sits menacingly

at the bottom of everyone's stomach. That boy sitting next to you, he may be the reason you do not get into Harvard. Or that girl applying for the scholarship as a fall-back might steal your slot and crush your dreams of going to college without a lifetime of loan pay-backs. There is no room for a bad mark on a test, there is no room for anything less than an honor grade, there is no time for anything but studying. Extracurricular activities must be packed into a student's already over-extended schedule in order to show off to a college, "Look what I can handle." This obsession to be as attractive academically as possible to colleges overtakes some students, and the drive to be the best becomes a compulsion. Failure is not an option; success is mandatory. And as a result, hundreds of zombie-like, burned out students rush through the corridors to their next classes, not stopping to take a breath or enjoy anything they are doing. Anxiety attacks and the immense stress students place on themselves are not uncommon at all, yet the problem lies in the student's lack of a place to go. If the teachers are the ones giving the children all the work, they are the "enemy," and the embarrassment of admitting that one cannot do it all alone is unacceptable. The common mode of thinking is, "If he can do it, so can I," even if that is not the case. And suddenly children have pushed themselves too far, which can be intensely problematic, psychologically.

Socially, some students fare equally as poorly. Going through the tortuous task of finding true friends, finding one's place, and finding one's self prove to be some of the most wearying tasks students must face in their high school years, and some just cannot do it alone. Seemingly simple conflicts in a teenager's life may include a fight with a friend or a melo-dramatic high school breakup, but often these problems run deeper than they appear to. Some students in more extreme cases become increasingly unhappy with how their life has

become, whether it has to do with their family, their friends, or even school. The social demands on students, especially as they grow older, become too much sometimes. Without someone telling students how to deal, they cannot, and more often than is shown, depression is experienced.

Everyone experiences their own difficulties in their lives, and we all have our own ways of dealing with them. The same problem that intertwines with each singular problem however, is what does one do when they can't deal. What if one feels it is easier to feign happiness than to approach an adult to talk? The teenage years are supposedly the hardest years of anyone's life, yet with every single issue possible swirling around in young minds, how come the same question is often "Where am I supposed to go?" Well-intentioned teachers spend all their free time correctcting the 150 papers that they are plagued with every day, and are too distracted to notice a student reaching out for help. Guidance counselors, helping children, well, guiding others, are bogged down the first 5 months of the school year with the tortuous task of getting the senior class into college, as well as keeping track of 290 students' academic records. And while the school has been making efforts to have a school pyschiatrist, there is still no one to turn to who "really knows" what everyone is going through. There may be school support available within the walls of this school, but unfortunately seems untouchable for students. It takes more than merely offering help to students when they are in trouلبة, being there for them even when nothing is wrong that will make them open up when distressed.

Unless Billy is approached in the hallway by a teacher who shows general concern for his well-being, he will continue to wallow secretly in his problems. As of now, more often than not, that is exactly what most people do. They don't know any better.

Latin Students Emotional Mess, Trying to Deal with School Stress

By JONAH BIRCH, I
FORUM EDITOR

As a friend of mine put it "its amazing how many at Latin have become such bitter, bitter people." Because of the intense pressure and competition, Boston Latin is a very difficult place to go to school. Students spend six years of their lives in constant fear of not living up to the incredible expectations placed upon their shoulders. They are continually told that not getting into a "good college" amounts to failure, and constantly compared to one another through such archaic institutions as class rank. As the years go by, more and more students leave the school; classes that begin with 500 people, end with 300. Such an intense atmosphere invariably contributes to depression among students. Many have themselves or have friends that have described the feeling of a constant, unshakable unhappiness. Many of us know people that have at one point or another considered suicide.

These students need emotional guidance to get through an extremely difficult four or six years. Unfortunately, many students do not get the help they need. Boston Latin has two-thousand four hundred students ... and nine guidance counselors. That's a ratio of one guidance counselor for every two hundred sixty-seven students. There are not close to enough guidance counselors to provide anything to students but minimal help with college entrance process and limited emotional support. The guidance counselors are not to be faulted for this; there are simply not enough of them. While there is a psychologist who works part time with BLS, very few students know that this resource is available to them. There needs to be more of an effort made to let students know that

there is some help for them if they need it, and the state and city need to spend more money providing students with this help.

Beyond this, the administration at BLS can and should do a much better job of eliminating some of the unnecessary stress on students. Does the administration really think that tardy detention prevents any students from coming late to school? Is there any reason why students cannot use their lockers during R5? Does there really need to be a crackdown on students drinking their coffee in homeroom on a cold winter morning? If a student cuts a class, does that really deserve a major punishment? If an individual teacher, after checking the absent list, wants to deny a student who cuts the right to make up missed work, isn't that enough?

With all of these rules, students feel like they are going to school in a prison, where every minor infraction can result in disciplinary measures. When students are treated like criminals, it compounds the pressure that they feel. Furthermore, it tends to make teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors seem like adversaries, making students less likely to approach them with problems.

Finally, the school needs to try to work more with parents and outside groups to let students know where they can get help, and that there are people for them to go to when they are depressed. Students at BLS are under intense scrutiny and pressure, from the first time they enter the school until graduation. And it is the city, the state, and the schools job to make sure that students get help when they need it, and have no extra, unnecessary pressure put on them. There needs to be a concerted effort to accomplish these goals. There is some support for students at Boston Latin, but it is neither extensive nor accessible enough to deal with the tremendous pressures that BLS students face.

The Value of Communication

By MAX ESKIN, I
FORUM LAYOUT EDITOR

Ever since I came to this school as a sixie, I noticed a curious lack of communication and ways of finding things out. Although I personally have now learned where to ask what questions when I need to know something, it annoys me to think that every single person who comes to this school must go through this route all over again, or else not go through it and remain in ignorance of much of what the school has to offer.

For example, it has never been easy to find out about clubs and activities. It has taken me a while to put the faces of teachers whom I have not had with the names. There is no course catalog. Community and communication are not similar words for nothing. When information is given out on a need-to-know basis, students are discouraged from taking initiative. Students are discouraged from becoming personally involved in the school. The society atrophies.

Even more significant is the lack of information about support services. I was fortunate enough to have become friends with teachers in the lower grades who told me about available programs, but what about other students? How many had heard the name Laura Basili before her name was printed on a sheet about a workshop for parents? An "if you build it, they will come" attitude is not good enough as far as guidance services are concerned. It is an invitation to tragedy of the sort that occurs constantly as capable students suffer, fail, and drop out.

For anyone who is reading: take initiative. There need to be posters matching teacher names with faces. There needs to be a way to research available courses. There should be an available list of clubs. And most importantly, there needs to be a comprehensive center for students to learn about the guidance programs and it has to be where students can find it. These are not complicated things. They probably involve less paper than is used for tardy passes each year. But these are the sort of things that makes an enormous difference.

Separation of Church and State in Government

By **MATTHEW ERLICH, I**
STAFF WRITER

It was a cold January morning. The Rev. Billy Graham stood giving a blessing that followed George W. Bush's inauguration. What seemed like a simple, inoffensive prayer began to cross the line when Graham said, "Let us pray that he [Bush] may rule with the laws of God in mind." Graham had not yet crossed the line, as he had not specified which god of what religion. But he did finish the prayer with, "In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen." Suddenly he had taken the leap. With this ending, it was no longer a non-denominational prayer, but rather a Christian prayer.

So where is the anger and outrage? There in the nation's capital, on the day of the presidential inauguration, when one would hope for the utmost respect of the Constitution, a man preached Christ to the government—and the people listened.

The problem here is quite obvious. This is a paradigm for what is a basic custom with politicians: accepting Christianity as the national religion and allowing religion to seep into politics. Religion is a right guaranteed to everyone by the First Amendment. There is, however, another part to the First Amendment which states, "Congress shall make no



law respecting an establishment of religion." Over time, this has simply come to mean that religion and state shall remain completely separate. Clearly though, this has been far from the case.

Some of the most powerful political lobbies in Washington D.C. are religious groups such as the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition. These groups have a very basic agenda: see to it that every law is created with the Bible as its outline. The fact that they have become so powerful identifies a major problem. Presidents, senators, and congressmen have made pledges to these groups. Ronald Reagan once addressed the Christian Coalition, telling them

that they owed him no debt, but that he owed them a great debt. The danger of something like this is quite obvious. A president or any member of the government cannot make laws with a religious institution in mind. Yet it always happens.

The Christian Coalition does not represent everyone in America. There are Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and atheists living in America, who do not use the Bible in their religion. Yet these people are forced to live under laws that are created by people "owing debts" to Christian lobbies in Washington D.C.

Some members of the government are against gay rights because they believe that homosexuals are sinners. Often, the same ones are against abortion, believing it to be a sin as well. They have opposed sexual education and distribution of condoms in school, because they think that it encourages young people to have premarital sex. Of course, according to the Bible, this would be a sin. It does not matter. The Bible may call these things a sin, but in the long run, it is the individual's right to decide what is sin.

Everyone does and should have the right to his own religion. People also have the right to make private decisions based on what their religious beliefs may be, and that right should not be infringed upon. No one has the right to impose his religious beliefs on others. This, however, is exactly what the religious lobbies are trying to do.

Teacher Assault: Jail Time?

By **MARCUS HUGHES, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As she approached the conclusion of another hectic day, first grade Fuller Elementary School teacher, Carla Reveliotty, had no premonition that she was about to be put flat on her back, laid low by a vicious attack. January 19, 2001 would bring her face to face with an overzealous parent outraged by the "treatment" that her son was receiving from Ms. Reveliotty. The treatment, according to Angela Brinson, the parent of the student, was Reveliotty's constant verbal abuse towards her son in class. According to the Boston Herald, dated January 26, 2001, the violent outburst on the part of Angela Brinson sent Carla Reveliotty to the emergency room with a fractured jaw and a severe cut above her right eye. This assault also catapulted Reveliotty into the forefront as the poster-child for all physically and verbally abused teachers.

Brinson's act was unthinkable. Although she believes her actions were justified because of the treatment her son received from Reveliotty, Angela Brinson must be held accountable for her dangerous and irrational behavior. Prison, however, is not the answer. The state's proposal of a prison term of two and a half years for Brinson does not match the extreme nature of the crime committed. That possible sentence, one of a number of possible sentences that Suffolk County District Court can impose, may be the punishment if Angela Brinson is convicted of the charges. There is no reason for the public to have confidence that the punishment that will be imposed will stop future violent incidents. Whether the case was assault or homicide, the State Corrections Facility has hardly established itself as a deterrent for criminals who act violently, once they receive bail.

The state must find an alternative approach that not only prevents needless cluttering of state prisons, but also must make sure that the public understands that Angela Brinson's conduct is unacceptable. The state has proposed a series of penalties which will keep Brinson out of state prison, while sharply punishing her for her actions. A clear message of the severity of her crime must be levied through a hefty fine of \$25,000. The most succinct and powerful way to deter anyone from committing a crime is for him or her to feel it in the weight of their wallet. The second penalty is reasonable which is 600 hours of community service. The third and fourth penalties, which are 18 months to 2 years of counseling and psychiatric evaluation, as well as having her son evaluated by DSS, will affect her personal life, which they should, since she decided to invert the personal life of Carla Reveliotty by attacking her. They are eighteen months to two years of counseling and psychiatric evaluation, and having her son evaluated by the Department of Social Services. The fifth and sixth penalties will publicly announce to the Commonwealth that Angela Brinson is guilty of assault and battery, and that the state does not condone her actions. These last penalties require a public apology to Carla Reveliotty and her family, and a restraining order issued against Angela Brinson, keeping her from Carla Reveliotty and her family, as well as from the Boston Public Schools.

Angela Brinson's attack is an example of poor judgement and poor parenting. The state must wage a war against people like Angela Brinson who are incapable of settling a dispute in a civilized manner—however, jail time is not the answer.

Cloning Breeds Controversy

By **MARY MACDONALD, V**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since scientists in Scotland first successfully cloned a sheep named Dolly in 1997, research in that field has expanded rapidly, as has the controversy around the ethics of the practice. It seems sheep are not the only animals being cloned lately; since 1997, cattle, mice and even a monkey, have been cloned. The theory is, humans could be next. Here is where most of the controversy arises.

Before considering the thought of human clones, we must look back at the past cloning of animals, and what effects these breakthroughs have made. Back in 1997, the scientists in Scotland, led by Ian Wilmut, envisioned a method to create the first successful replica of another animal. Other attempts had been made before, but Wilmut's method was successful: he took a cell from a mammary gland of a six-year-old ewe and froze it. The nucleus was then taken from the cell and placed in an unfertilized egg of another ewe. Thus Wilmut and his crew created Dolly, the first fatherless, exact replica of another animal. They never had any intention to try the experiment on humans.

However, as time went by it began to look as if the technology that brought Dolly into the world was not to be a one hit wonder and cloning became more and more common. Sparks of controversy flew. The main anti-clone argument is that the process is unnatural and is an abuse of a power that humans never had—the power to create. As legitimate as that argument is, there has been much intelligent reasoning from the pro-cloners. For example, the first clone of a gaur, a nearly extinct breed of Asian cattle, is due to be born this month. The strange thing is, the DNA for the clone was taken from a deceased gaur. Some people consider this raising the dead, and it would be a miracle if this calf was born, giving the breed another chance at life.

Given this news, a grieving mother may wonder if scientists could find a way to clone her stillborn child. With the technology available, why should the child be denied a chance at life? It seems humane, but there is fierce opposition that believes human cloning is anything but humane. To me, the cloning of humans just does not seem right. It seems like no one is thinking logically—we can never know if a clone would be a realistic person, or a mindless zombie like "Frankenstein's Monster." And I cannot imagine there would be too many volunteers for this process.

My opinion aside, human cloning could be just around the corner. Recently, the rhesus monkey became the first primate to be replicated, proving that scientists have the necessary technology. Now people need to decide if the practice is ethical. Japan, as a whole, has answered "no," and a ban on cloning has been issued throughout the country. And with Japan being one of the world's most technologically advanced countries, the process will be slowed down considerably. The U.S. may also issue a similar ban, and opinion on this is almost 50-50. This may be one of the first important decisions our new president will have to make.

For the sake of science, I hope that scientists succeed with the experiment, but for the sake of the human race, I hope they will never use it.

Tough Sentences: A Deserved Slap in the Face

By **ROSELYS ESTEVE, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to a recent article in the Boston Globe entitled "Hard Lessons," Antonio Centeio was punched by an angry parent at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester two years ago. The parent, Dale Robinson, punched Mr. Centeio because he was angry about his daughter's grades. Robinson is currently serving a two and a half years sentence in prison. As for Mr. Centeio's injuries, he suffered a chipped tooth and a cut on his left temple. He came to Boston Latin School the next year as a math teacher.

Last month, Carla Reveliotty, a teacher at the Margaret Fuller Elementary School in Jamaica Plain, was the victim of "parent rage." Angela Brinson, a parent angry over

how the teacher restrained her son, allegedly shoved Reveliotty to the ground. Reveliotty fell and struck a desk where she suffered a black eye and a fractured cheekbone. Now the fate of Robinson lies within the hands of the West Roxbury District Court.

There is absolutely no difference between the severity of the two cases. Both victims suffered serious injuries due to the uncontrolled anger of a parent. Anyone who strikes another person, except for the justified reason of self-defense, must pay the price. Dale Robinson deserved what was given to him by the law. As for Angela Brinson, she should have thought twice before shoving Reveliotty to the ground. What kind of an example is she showing her son—that if you have a dispute with someone, you should have the right to lay a finger on that person? As Mr. Centeio told the Argo, "As humans we

must differentiate ourselves from other species by using rational behavior. We should always resort to nonviolent solutions when we encounter conflict."

There are those who will disagree and say that putting someone in jail will not necessarily solve the problem at hand. The possibility of someone becoming more violent is high and the possibility of repeating the same action will likely occur again.

That may be the case, but if being worried about spending two and a half years in prison is going to stop some people from assaulting others, then the current law is justified. A person must take responsibility for his actions. Since Robinson and Brinson did not think about the consequences of their actions, maybe two and a half years will give them time to think about it.



Dennis Ng

By Christopher Coletta, I
Contributing Writer

God spoke.

A day doesn't go by that one can't hear some concordant harmony being rehearsed by one of BLS talented ensembles - but this music was sublime. I was compelled to follow the divine sound down the fourth floor corridor in the Fine Arts Wing and into the chorus room. There at the Young Chang piano, I saw BLS senior and world-class classical musician Dennis Ng play his heart out.

What struck me then was how artful his movement was. Until now, the only graceful key stroking I had witnessed Dennis make was on his TI-89 in Physics class, and I think this holds true with most people who are acquainted with him. We all know he's a wicked smart kid (top five in the senior class, NHS, accepted to both MIT and Harvard), and that he's a tech guru the likes of which BLS has never seen (sorry, Devon). But such an elegant and professional air as emanated from Dennis that day would catch any of us by surprise.

"I started at age five because my father bought me a digital keyboard, not an impressive start at all," he says. Since then, however, this international sensation has done some extremely impressive things. He is a five-time Massachusetts Music Teachers Association first prizewinner.. In 1994 and 1996, he won the International Young Artist Piano Competition. At age 15, he played in Carnegie Hall in New York City, and the JFK Performance Center in Washington, D.C.

Dennis finds that the best thing about making music is getting the chance to play in all sorts of cool places. In 1995 and 1996, at only age 11, he had the opportunity to tour Europe twice with classical music student groups. Not many can say that they played one of Mozart's chamber pieces mere blocks away from Mozart's own place of birth in Salzburg, Austria. "Its not only an opportunity to meet people that share the same interests, but its also the places. To play in centuries-old concert halls lined with gold is amazing." Right now, Dennis is practicing for a concerto competition in February. He admits that his hobby gets very stressful at times because its so time-consuming, but it pays off in the end. "Sometimes I don't want to play piano anymore. But I'm motivated just to play my heart out, and to be moved by the music." As a result of his study of music, his work ethic has benefited, but he values more the lessons he's learned about expressing ideas without words.

Despite all his talent, Dennis doesn't foresee a future in a music career. "I haven't really found what I love to do yet. Music and tech stuff are awesome hobbies on the side, but they're really just hobbies. Another one of Dennis's great qualities, aside from his zeal for piano and his affable nature, is a propensity to try new things. He sees himself taking a break from the classical genre for a while, maybe to try a little jazz or a bit of accompaniment. He and fellow seniors Lee Guo and Richard Wang performed in the recent Asian festival at the Josiah Quincy School. He regards his brief stint as a member of this "boy band" as a great learning experience: "Oh man, that was not fun, it was so embarrassing. I figured out that I never wanna be in a boy band ... ever."

He's a good sport about stuff like that. Last year for the International showcase, Dennis accompanied me off stage in a performance of Rigoletto. With no lights in the house except the spotlight that was fixed on the stage, he couldn't see the keyboard. He messed up several times, but he did great considering he couldn't see anything. With 15 seconds left in the piece, some great thinker had the intuition to put the lights back on - his performance was flawless.

Mask Wows Crowds At Black Box

By Allison Jolly, I
Contributing Writer

Walking into the "black box" theater that was actually black for a change (the sound proof panels having been adorned with subtle chalk drawings on black paper courtesy of Mr. Stone's eighth grade art classes) I immediately knew that these kids had their stuff together. Yes, I said these kids. This eclectic production was totally under the control of students at Boston Latin. With the help of Theater Arts teacher Sarah Teasdale and percussionist Sula da Silva, this group of twenty students, wrote and starred in their own stunning theatrical spectacle. Very impressive indeed.

Walking into the theater, honestly I did not know what to expect. True some of the people involved had spoken to me about the general nature of the show, but I had no idea it was going to be such a congruous and spectacular event. Even before the show had even started I was jamming in my seat to the rhythm of the percussion overture given by the Blue men themselves Adam Finelli, Dan Ciambriane and Jacques Ledbetter under the direction of Sula da Silva. I thought "Great! Some pre-show entertainment." Actually, as I soon would discover, some very effective percussion pieces were inserted during the actual production, accenting the intense drama and mystical dancing that ensued.

The play began with a strong dramatic tableau, in which we learned the vocal powers of Taneisha Wilson the talented actress who played the character around which the play is centered, a high school aged girl. She cries out to the ghost of her mother, played by Mercy Imahiyerobo, who seems to glide by standing tall in a mask wearing a costume inspired by Afro-Cuban culture. All the costumes in the play were designed by two artistic members of class II Liz Johnson and Meghan Fountain (the pair also headed up backstage as Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager). Here in this opening scene also, an amazing ensemble group was introduced, as they graciously crept across the stage, encircling the bed of Tam. This was my favorite aspect of the play, the incorporation of the Animi. The Animi consisted of six figures in plaster masks, with simple expressions and draped with twine made by Sarah Adler and Mr. Stone, almost dancing which enhanced their flowing costumes. Faith Imafidon, Lindi Tulloch, Alyca Simon, Mercy Imaheriyobo and Natasha Herbert played the members of the ensemble. The Animi appeared on stage during the regular action accompanied by the percussionists to enhance the thematic moments. This was well thought out and kept quite consistent throughout the play.

After the marvel that was the opening tableau, there is a blackout (thanks to the very capable Lighting Designer Robert Timmerman). After a quick scene change we are transported to a class room, the other characters (students)

break the fourth wall a bit as they enter from the back of the theater chatting to one another. The improvised conversations continue until a school bell sounds and class begins. Marcus Stacey (a seasoned actor of class III) plays the role of the teacher Mr. Thaddeus, commandingly and convincingly. The students begin a totally improvised conversation about Romeo and Juliet, which turns in to a conversation about youths, and their role in society. This was a very natural way to introduce one of the main themes in the play. All the actors Jack Ferris, Michelle Miller, Abiner Vincente, Shanna Masdea, Kelly Taylor, Maury Turay and Taneisha Wilson do a wonderful job interacting with one another extemporaneously on stage.

Making remarkable use of flashback and monologues, the audience is made aware of each of the character's true weaknesses and worries. This is provoked by the sickness and absence of Mr. Thaddeus. The students Max (Shanna Masdea), Manny (Abiner Vincente), and Nikki (Michelle Miller) all have monologues in which a deep and poignant part of them is revealed. As the characters are giving these improvised monologues a member of the Animi removes its mask, symbolizing the vulnerability and the freedom of the character. The only disappointment in the whole play was the lack of monologues from Christopher (Jack Ferris), Kristen (Kelly Taylor) and Matt (Maury Turay). The play closed with the touching monologue of Tam (Taneisha Wilson) as she confesses about the death of her mother and need for someone to care about her.

Despite the mature and important subject matter addressed in the play, there was some strategically placed comic relief, especially from Jacques Ledbetter who played an obstinate Police Officer and Chiamaka Ojimba as pushy yet sympathetic Nurse Williams. There were also a few notable cameos made: Dan Ciambriane as a clueless substitute teacher, the director herself, Ms. Teasdale as a school administrator and assistant acting instructor Shannon Bryant as the teacher who replaces Mr. Thaddeus. Perhaps the most memorable surprise was that the audience was treated with an unexpected performance from some members of the BLS Step Squad.

Although there was no script to this production, exiting the theater, every audience member could tell how great an effort was put in to make this play the marvel that it was. There was so much talent and input added during the creative process, the ideas being composed by multiple people, yet the performance gelled quite nicely with all the technical aspects, the motivations of the actors, the music and the dancing. This play was a gem on every level: the actors and crew showed intrinsic talent in their craft, the play appealed to all the senses and the highlighted themes held the audience in a mesmerizing grasp. I and everyone else who saw the show are extremely impressed. Well done.

Senior Long Xiong gave audience members a break from the pop sound with Vertical Horizons Best I Ever Had. Although not a member of any choir (yet), this bass hit every note on the nose, and sailed right into high alto range with no problems. Everything about his performance, from his voice to his stage presence, communicated the bittersweetness of the song.

The Sing-Off, however, wasnt all about singing. Some performers decided to stand out in other ways.

MC Jerell Perez (III), for example, literally flew halfway across the stage before picking himself up and greeting the audience, Wassssssaaaaaap! Tru Lang (II) proved that he could sing all of Still, by 98 Degrees, with a wad of gum in his mouth. And Trus fellow 98 Degrees fan Prakan [surname], of Northeastern University, ran through I Do Cherish You without opening his eyes once.

BLS ASIA's Second Annual New Year's Sing-Off was, to say the least, interesting. In the world of high school club productions, where many shows are little more than displays of cover-model looks and hormonal sexuality, ASIA's Second Annual Sing-Off stood out as a true showcase of talent. Sure, the light person forgot to use the dimmer - and yes, some scantily clad girl from Newton whose vocal abilities couldn't possibly have surpassed that of our BLS-nurtured stars won first place - but I walked out of the auditorium amazed by the fact that all of the people who had the guts to get on stage, as well as all the people who worked behind-the-scenes to put the show together, are walking in the halls with me every day.

And *that* is a pretty phenomenal thing.

ASIA Sing-Off: Dennis To Become Sixth Backstreet Boy?

By Celia Ho, II
Assistant Editor

It happened on Friday, December 29. Since then, Extremes' More Than Words has been echoing in my head, and I can't help but listen to the MP3 obsessively.

Such are the powers of BLS ASIA's Second Annual New Year's Sing-Off.

More Than Words, covered by junior Max Joseph and sophomore Vinh Tranh, was only one of 11 acts at this years Sing-Off. This dynamic team crooned like the pros, navigating smoothly between melody and harmony and high and low notes. Their spellbinding performance won them second place in the Sing-Off.

Junior Sze Nga Wong also delivered a solid performance. Normally only one of many alto voices in Concert Choir, at the Sing-Off Sze Ngas voice stood out as one of solo caliber. Sze Nga, standing alone on the stage with her voice belting out the lyrics to Cass Pangs Still You Are My Beloved (a completely Chinese song, despite its misleading title) and her face full of emotion, was a sight to see. She walked away with third place at the end of the show.

Other performances, although they didnt place, were equally memorable.

One such act was that of seniors Lee Guo, Dennis Ng and Richard Wang, who took a humorous slant on their performance. "Hi, we're the Backstreet Boys," Dennis announced to peals of laughter as the three took the stage. Out-of-the-blue, but funny still, was Lee's utterance of "Weh weh!" in the middle of All I Have To Give.

A & E

Arts Calendar

A&E Exclusive...Get Ready ‘Cuz Here They Come

15 Minutes (R): Robert De Niro and Edward Burns play already famous investigators in this action packed drama that is sure to steal the screen. Kelsey Grammer and Melina Kanakaredes co-star as sleazy media personalities as killers ravage NYC.

The Exorcist: Dominion (R):This prequel to the 1973 classic horror flick *The Exorcist* will recount Father Merrin's early 20th-century journey to Africa, where, while doing missionary work as a young priest, he has his first encounter with Satan. Coming soon.

Jurassic Park III:A second sequel was inevitable - even if no one's sure what it will be about yet. Rampant rumors, none of them confirmed, envision a doomsday scenario in which hordes of dinos break free of island confinement and overrun the world.

UPCOMING TOP 10:

1. *The Matrix 2*
2. *Hannibal*
3. *The Mummy Returns*
4. *Tomb Raider*
5. *Star Wars Episode II*
6. *Terminator 3*
7. *Spider-Man*
8. *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*
9. *Pearl Harbor*
10. *Jurassic Park III*

OUR TOP 4 PICKS:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <i>The Mexican</i> (R) | <i>Down to Earth</i> (PG-13) |
| Wide Release; DreamWorks | Starring: Chris Rock |
| Starring Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, and James Gandolfini | February 23rd |
| March 2nd | <i>See Spot Run</i> (PG) |
| | Starring David Arquette, |
| <i>3000 Miles to Graceland</i> (PG-13) | Michael Clarke Duncan, |
| Starring: Kevin Costner, Kurt Russell, Courtney Cox- | Leslie Bibb, |
| Arquette, and Jon Lovitz | Paul Sorvino, |
| February 23rd | and Angus T. Jones |
| | March 2nd |

The Submarine Submerges

By MATTHEW CHAN, II
Contributing Writer

The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe is one of the few sections of the BLS arts that has only momentarily appeared every now and then. YSIT started out in 1999 as an improvisation workshop led by theater arts teacher, Ms. Teasdale. Progressively throughout the year the troupe has picked up many different types of people that make up the wonderfully weird and talented cast.

Their first public appearance was a one night show which consisted of scenes introduced by the members of YSIT and also an improvised finale to wrap things up. While continuing to work on improv, they decided to perform one of the member's plays, *The Wizard of Zo*, a parody by Jack Ferris. The play was performed for one night only, drawing a large crowd of spectators, to witness this extremely comedic production.

Although the Yellow Subs did have their share of "misery biscuits" during their first year, they have been staying strong for the second year. The co-captains, Josh

Michel, Jack Ferris, and Mike Guerra have all been working hard as well as the individual members to make the Yellow Submarine what it is today.

"The Magical Mystery Show" is their first all-out improvisation show. After February break, they will immediately move into *The Making of the Play You Are Watching Right Now*, another hilarious play written by Jack Ferris. At every meeting the primary focus of the improvisation exercises is dramatic irony, a situation in which the audience has knowledge that one performer does not have. There are also other games that emphasize movement, sound, character development, and other acting skills. In the future, the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe hopes to have at least two performances every year. For now, the sub has submerged but will open again next year to all members of the Boston Latin School student body. Be sure to see the Yellow Submarine sailing in the years to come at BLS.

String Musicians Wanted!

By MEREDITH GARRY, IV
Contributing Writer

Well, it took a while, but BLS Chamber Strings is finally up and running! In the last few months, freshmen, sophomores, and even an occasional junior have been organizing a club for string-friendly BLS students, thanks to Natasha Ramankye and Jose Santiago, both class IV. One day when Strings Director Ms. White was absent, Jose and Natasha started practicing their pieces. The substitute teacher, Mr. Grant, complimented them on their wonderful tone and suggested that they start a string quartet or something to that effect. Well, Jose and Natasha took that comment to heart and BLS Chamber Strings was born! Thanks to some publicity from Ms. White and

student recruits, we have a (very) large chamber group. However, the group is composed mainly of violinists. Jose does a fantastic job on the cello, and Vinh on the viola, but they need some backup! Meetings are after school Mondays and/or Tuesdays until about 3:30. Right now, we have are working on a repertoire including Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary, America the Beautiful, Judas Macabeus, and more. If you can help us out with a viola or cello, the group would be very grateful, as we have a competition coming up in March, Music Night and the Spring String Fling! For more information or to join, see me, Meredith Garry, in 334, or e-mail Emilia Zambrano atlocacucha2groove@hotmail.com.



Caroline Gaudet

By REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I am sitting in Caroline's dining room for yet another chemistry tutoring session. As she attempts to explain how to balance an equation, I find myself staring off into space, enjoying the various pastel flower drawings that decorate her wall. Caroline is far from one of those "pretentious artsy people"; in fact, she is one of the most straight-forward people I know. She does art because she likes to create color and beauty, but more than that, she likes to create floor plans.

"All my life, my dream has been to design my own house," she says, while chowing on cheese doodles. "I have always liked enclosed spaces. I used to sit on the floor in my closet and make measurements for buildings and houses I wanted to design."

Affectionately referred to as "Cyine," "Frau" and even "Frau-Cow" by friends, Caroline is basically a sick genius. She is nasty at math, physics, chemistry, standardized tests and pretty much everything else. She is the only girl in her AP Physics class. She plans to study engineering in college, and become an architect, a field that would combine her artistic and mathematical abilities. Caroline is definitely a girl who is going places, but it is not simply her intelligence and many talents that leave people amazed.

Caroline is person who can sport galoshes and a bright orange Eskimo coat and make it look cool every time. When she thinks about the world, she sees parabolas and geometric shapes, and it is with these thoughts that she could be entertained for hours. Sometimes she comes out on weekends, and other times she gets engrossed in some sewing project and stays up working on it into the wee hours of the morning.

Caroline is very involved in the arts at BLS. She is a scholar of AP Art, bringing creative energy and inspiration to class every day (or at least whenever she is in the mood to). Her stage debut was in fifth grade, when she played the role of "Sammy" in the Hennigan School production "The Magic of Sammy's Circus." Since then, she has stuck to working behind the scenes. She has designed and constructed the sets for Drama Club Productions of *The Crucible*, *Adaptation*, and *Private Eyes*; she is presently working on *Interview*. "I think I have won a few art awards in my time, but I can't really remember them," she says. She recently won a Silver Key in the Boston Globe Scholastic Competition for a painting she did of urban architecture. Caroline is pretty much a "take it or leave it" kind of person, and does not need external validation for what she does.

When she isn't in her living room dancing, singing, or playing Nintendo, Caroline likes to earn a few bucks by walking dogs and feeding cats; not that she has much use for money, since she is about as materialistic as a Transcendentalist. "I used to shop at Savers until their prices went up. Now I just depend on gifts. I'm such a scrub." She doesn't just scrub off people for clothing; she also manages to scrub rides. When asked why she doesn't drive yet, even though she is old enough to have had her license for almost two years, she replies: "Because I am apathetic to the world, and right now we have a rental car." If it were anyone else I might be annoyed, but with Carline I can rest in peace, knowing that she will always chip in for gas.

And lest we forget, Caroline is one of the Business Managers of the Argo, where she is a carnation-selling fiend!

Whether it is her style of dress, the way she talks, the way she thinks, the way she eats, or her uncanny ability to do physics problems, Caroline is a true non-conformist. It is this quality that will always amaze people, even when she is sixty-two years old, still has not bothered to get her driver's license, and is still wearing that same orange Eskimo coat.

Technology

Let's Flash!

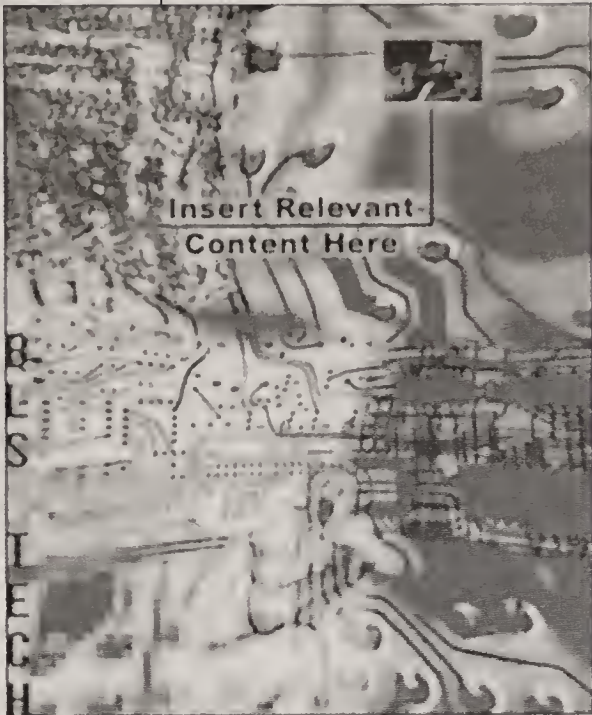
By ADRIAN LEUNG, II
Assistant Technology Editor

Have you ever visited your friends' homepages and noticed stuff moving and flying around everywhere? Have you noticed lately that Web sites are becoming more sophisticated with Web animation? Is your homepage obsolete because it doesn't have animation? So how does an average kid without programming skills create web animation? Macromedia Flash 5 is the answer!

Macromedia Flash creates vector-based animation. If you have ever visted shockwave.com, you have seen the power of Flash Shockwave technology. Macromedia Flash 5 is the most popular web animation creation tool among both major web-based corporations and the average Joe. Flash creates animations that range from basic twirls to highly interactive websites. Its functionality appeals to the casual user as well as the advanced programmer. Animators and graphic designers will be pleased with its drawing tools, import options, and compatibility with other art programs. Programmers will like the rendering, built-in XML parser and the advanced scripting capabilities of ActionScript found in version 5. The point is that you don't have to be a first-class programmer to appreciate Flash 5.

If you are the average kid who knows how to turn on a computer, work a mouse, and have basic concepts of design, then you will be ready to learn Macromedia Flash. In fact, WE can teach you! Dennis Ng (I) and I will be teaching a Macromedia Flash 5 animation course from March to April, totaling to 11 classes. We taught a similar class last year with Flash 4 and the participants loved it so we decided to do it again this year. If you have no idea about what I am talking about when I say motion tweening, layers, rollovers, and vectors, then you are the perfect participant. We do not expect anyone at all to know how to use Flash 5; after all, that's our job to teach it. However, a bit of computer background is preferred.

If you would like more information or would like an application for this free after school program, please contact Dennis Ng in HR 132 or Adrian Leung in HR 119. The Web animation sessions have been made possible by the financial support of BLS alumni.



BPS Impedes First Amendment

By DEVON RUECKNER, I
Assistant Technology Editor

As you probably know, the Boston Public Schools employ Internet filtering software on all computers connected to their citywide network. This decision was made when Elron Software Inc. donated the use of their *Web Inspector* software. Though the motive of prohibiting access to pornography in schools and libraries is understandable, the implementation is pathetic. The filters are unnervingly ineffective, regularly blocking perfectly legitimate and educational sites while allowing unrestricted access to explicit sites. Running software known to have such low accuracy kills freedom of speech and depletes the value of the Internet as an educational tool.

The inaccuracy of the filter is due to the way it chooses which sites to censor. *Web Inspector* not only blocks access to a list of known explicit sites, but also uses a technique called keyword filtering: if a certain words appear in a document's title, address (URL), keywords (meta tags), or sometimes even main content, the page is automatically concealed. This means that many perfectly legitimate sites will be blocked because they happen to use any word that the city decides is "inappropriate" (a very subjective judgment to begin with). Thousands of sites about information ranging from breast cancer to Anne Sexton are made inaccessible to students because of these keywords. This also means that many sites considered inappropriate for minors can easily make it through the filter – as long as the URL is not on the list and it doesn't use any "bad" words, anything goes in terms of images.

In the larger picture, the accuracy of the filtering software isn't the most important issue. Even if the software

was 90% accurate (which will never happen), the city still has no right to actively place filters on content. Before getting our Internet accounts, all students are required (both at school and the libraries) to sign and have his guardian sign an Acceptable Use Policy, which clearly outlines what the student is allowed to view. Gone are the days when any search made on the Internet will end up having pornography in the results. It is very hard to "accidentally" stumble upon explicit content now; if someone is searching for porn, they will get it with or without a filter. If not, they probably won't. Since we all signed the AUP, it is our responsibility only to abide by the rules. It is far better to allow access to all content and risk a few people breaking the rules of the AUP they're bound to than to institute a block of any sort, no matter how accurate.

Fairly recently, the city decided to take an even more extreme step in their repression of free speech on the Internet: they blocked access to popular web email providers such as *hotmail.com* and *aolmail.aol.com*. This is a blow to email – one of the most basic Internet tools of communication. There is absolutely no justification for blocking our access to electronic mail; we use it for everything from transferring files to and from school to communicating with classmates. The AUP specifically states that "communicating with other students and educators" is an appropriate use of the network, and the filters hypocritically prevent this.

So Boston doesn't trust us to follow the rules they forced us to agreed to. They don't think that we can handle the "real" world. They feel that they should attempt to impose their arbitrary "moral" values on us by using an utterly ineffective filter that is more of an annoyance than any kind of "protection." So what can you do? Luckily, it is very easy to bypass their petty filters through the use of something called a proxy server. A proxy is like a mirror: instead of connecting directly to sites through the school network, you first connect to the proxy that in turn connects to a desired site. All the filter sees is the proxy – everything else is totally accessible and totally anonymous. One very good proxy is *www.safeweb.com*. You simply go to their site, type any URL, and a new filter-free window will open up. You can find a list of other free proxies by going to *neworder.bbox.sk* and clicking the "#Anonymity" link. There is absolutely nothing wrong with bypassing the filter as long as the sites you visit still comply with the AUP that you signed.

More Room in Space

By MAX ESKIN, I
Forum Layout Editor

As I write this article on February 8, the Space Shuttle Atlantis is well on its way to dock with Space Station Alpha, our newest orbital outpost. This station, otherwise known as the International Space Station (ISS), is the joint effort of 16 nations, mostly the USA, Russia, and Japan. When completed, the station will cost \$100 billion, weigh a million pounds, and provide six scientific laboratories. It will have as much room as a jumbo jet, supporting seven crew members. Although it has many critics, the station is both an opportunity for many new scientific discoveries to be made, and a stepping stone to further exploration of space.

The station is being launched one module at a time. Currently, it has three inhabitable modules - Zarya, Zvezda, and Unity. A construction project of this magnitude has never before been attempted in space, but so far there have been no problems. We have already witnessed the automatic docking of Zarya and Unity, and the majestic unfolding of the 200-foot wide solar panels. This, however, is just the beginning. The Destiny lab, carried aboard this Atlantis flight, will hopefully be attached to the rest of the station without problems. Then the current three-person crew will be able to get some more breathing room, and the station will be ready for scientific experiments.

If construction stays on the current schedule, it will end in 2006, and after that the station should remain in operation for ten years or so. Of course, Mir has long outlasted its projected life span, but it is being taken out of orbit in a matter of week to crash in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. This will free up money for the Russian space agency,

which in turn means potatoes and vodka for the whole staff. The major criticism of Alpha is that it, like Mir, will become an expensive space jalopy without bringing any benefits. To this my initial response is that the National Missile Defense program, as I have explained on page 9 of this issue, is at least ten times more expensive and has been shown to be without any benefits whatsoever. In a relatively peaceful time like the present, the countries of the world should be putting their efforts into cooperative scientific exploration, exactly what the station is about.

Another point is that unlike the Apollo moon landing program of the 1960s, which has been ridiculed for its "just because we can" spirit, the space station is a part of a larger plan. After it is finished, it can be used as a roadside inn on the way to the Moon, or even Mars. This is practical because the most expensive part of space exploration right now is getting from earth to space. If that step could be made simpler in any way, everything else would follow.

To give a brief glimpse of the possible benefits of further space exploration, there are so many asteroids in the solar system containing everything from iron to diamonds that if they could be mined, the whole concept of buying raw materials would become meaningless (Karl Marx would be thrilled!). But why look that far ahead? Never before has there been a permanent orbital laboratory on this scale. We don't even have a conception of the kinds of discoveries that may be made there, just like we never expected half the things that we would discover with the Hubble Space Telescope.

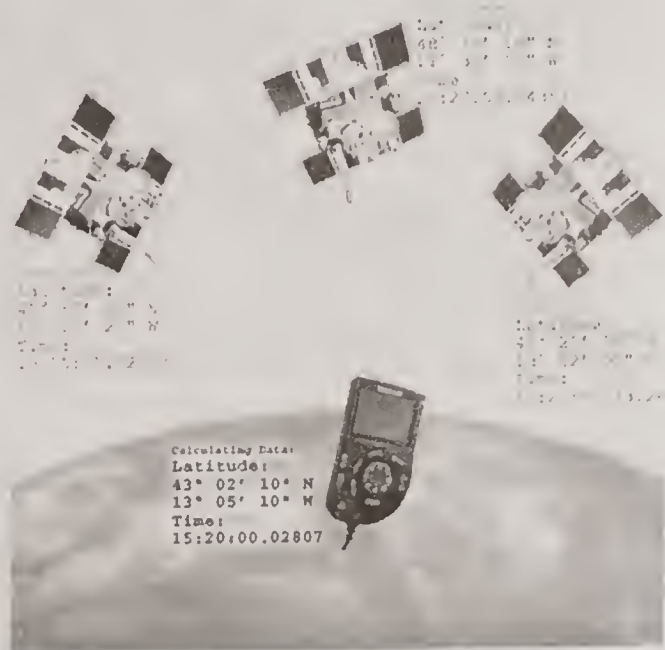
The space station also opens up the door to space tourism. The first candidate is already being trained for his upcoming trip; the price of his ticket undisclosed, but it is estimated at \$20 million. Meanwhile, the three astronauts currently onboard say that they are satisfied with their station. Astronaut Shepherd said in an interview that being on Alpha feels surprisingly normal, and they could probably keep doing it for a while. And if space travel becomes normal, then the new station will have truly accomplished something tremendous.

Ask a Geek!

Q: How do other GPS devices work?

A: Global Positioning System devices listen on transmissions in the 390 and 1550mhz spectrum, continously sent from 24 satellites. Each of these satellites circles the Earth twice a day at an altitude of 10,900 miles with a unique path so that any person on Earth can have 4 to 8 satellites within his line of sight. By listening in signals from three or more sattellites, GPS devices can then perform triangulation, which is basically extremely complicated inverse 3-d trigonometry. Devices take satellite latitude, longitude, time, and "coded sequence" data, perform triangulation and then calculate the device's position and altitude on Earth.

Receivers of GPS satellite data range from portable handheld devices that help mountaineers to aircraft-resident devices that assist pilots in bad weather.



Sports

Lady Wolfpack Chills DCL Competition With Icy Defense

By ALEXANDRA ZALTMAN & EMILY ROBBINS, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The gate is opened. They rush into the rink, cutting the ice with their sharpened blades, yielding to no one. Only one thought is on their determined and focused minds: victory. With a game face which rivals that of the football team and yet a grace in puck handling unmatched in the league, the Wolfpack works its magic. "She shoots...she scores!!" is what BLS Girls Hockey fans have been accustomed to hearing all season about this dynamite team.



With senior captains Michele Tassinari and Jessica Price, and sophmore captain Courtney Carthas leading the Pack under the guidance of Coach Martin McDonough, their team is half way through their season with a superb record. Their 10-1-3 record is proof that that these players take their ice time seriously. After a hard fight, the pack fell to Fontebonne, making their first and only loss of the season. "They are a team that will never give up," marveled a spectator

at a recent game. This comment especially holds true in the game against long time rival Matignon, which resulted in two ties. Their one loss has eliminated the possibility of an undefeated season, but the girls' disappointment is overshadowed by their hard-fought effort and continued drive to keep it a one-loss season.

Coach McDonough and Assistant Coach Balaconis feel that the team's only weakness is "difficulty finishing off plays and scoring when playing the better teams." This team of twenty-nine is otherwise considered a powerhouse of skill and talent. One asset this season is an abundance of fresh, sixie talent. Many returning 8th graders, including Catherine Foley (center) and Katie Balaconis (defense), have also solidified this year's team. The outstanding skills of co-captains Jessica Price and Michele Tassinari are always a necessity in games, as well as the support of right wing stars Aislinn Doherty and Kathleen Norton. Carthas and Kerry Brennan, both sophomores, keep the plays fierce and the points high, while Helen McCarthy, also a sophomore, has been stopping the goals with ease all season as the team's dependable goalie.

Many of the seniors and juniors on the team have been dedicated players since the team began just a few years ago. Veterans Elizabeth Erlandson and Lindsey Emerson have been key players all year. Amanda Martin, Trinh Ho, Julie Delprato, and Renata Tutko have also been essential for the team to maintain their near spotless record.

The Girl's Hockey Team looks to be in good shape to end this season phenomenally with another state championship in sight. Although it won't be easy, the girls are confident that they will come out on top with tough teams in their future such as A-B and L-S. Whatever the outcome, this team of twenty-nine is by far the most dedicated and determined group on ice.

Wrestlers Grapple For Success

By KARYN M. RAUTENBERG, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It seems at each meet and each tournament different wrestlers really shined, but the team has had a tough time bringing it all together. This shifting spotlight means that the team's record does not reflect the talent and hard work of these athletes. This Wolfpack team showed its hunger and desire for points, pins and wins every meet. The desire and example was led by a combination of seniors and underclassmen who have stepped up this season.

Not enough can be said about scholar-athlete Brian Farknoff (or Farnleaf, however you want to mangle his name). He's worked his butt off this season and everyone knows it, especially his opponents. His dedication and leadership qualities that earned him a full ride to Hamilton have also earned him the position of captain. After switching from 145 to 140, Bri's record improved tremendously and placed him third at Canton. Overall, he had a great sectional tournament, seeded 6th, he came in 5th. This feat earned Farknoff a berth in the States on Feb. 16-7. Brian will be accompanied by two returning state competitors, seniors Jason Allukian at 171 and John Paul Bravo at heavyweight.

Under the bleachers Jason, voted loudest in the senior class, becomes quiet and meditative as he listens to his discman (or someone else's!) and pulls up his green hoody. With his expertise at riding legs, he makes winning look easy. Allukian has dominated his weight class, winning 1st at Canton and placing 4th at sectionals. His few losses were when he found time to be his enemy; down by one point with 3 seconds to go. (Ugh.) Last year he won the Bay State games and plans to continue his career at WPI. (Oh, and Jason is really sexy in spandex.)

At 189, (finally wrestling his own weight), Senior Kevin MacDonald is notorious for his face dripping in sweat as he throws his opponent with a bear hug. This scene has earned "Big Mac" a 50-50 record this season. Senior Leo Gannon, with a similar record, has been much appreciated this year, especially as a competitive drilling partner for "Biggie." John Paul Bravo, voted most athletic in our senior class, is our very talented heavyweight. He sreally proved himself at the Canton tournament this year where we actually saw him on his back! He fought off a pin and came back to win, all in the championship round. Bravo earned 2nd at sectionals in a tight match against B-R. John hopes to join Jason at WPI on the wrestling squad.

Corey Nimmer was a freshman rookie at 103. He was outweighed even in that weight class, but wrestled hard off his back all season. Like a lot of the new guys, he has to learn more offense instead of relying on defense to earn some wins. Steve Armant, a returning eighth grader, started at 112 this year and really learned how to wrestle. Earning an 8-16 record as a fivsie only says wonders about his future.

Jose Valenzuela is that kid everyone admires for his drive and dedication. He has been at every practice, so it only follows that this sophomore would step like a captain, wrestle like a fiend, and come up with incredible wins in overtime like he did to place third at Canton. We were all upset and confused that Jose didn't make it to states, but there's a bright future ahead for him and the team. Freshman Nathan Allukian has been a great addition to the team this year. Aside from his valued entertaining qualities, he's provided excellent competition for the lower weight classes and even earned a Varsity spot for various matches at 119 and 125.

Freshman Mike Paladino and senior Tommy Chin have filled in the slots at 145 and 152 this season. "Dino" will try a WWF move learned from his role models and "T-train" will use his football aggressiveness for his takedown points. Sophomore Dean Colpack at 160 also came up from the ever-prosperous JV. He's showed us a thing or tow about the "Russian" move and invented a pin when he sat on a guy's head...pure entertainment.

The JVers have had a fun and productive season and learned a lot from the more experienced guys. Senior Steve DeLosh proved it's never too late to try something new, but what an animal he would have been on the mat had he started earlier. Other members include Mike Pastori, Tackling Bob, John Beeder, and many other young, enthusiastic athletes. Girls' Colonials are March 4th at Brookline where Katie Jolly, Karyn M. Rautenberg and Anka Wilkes hope to excel as they have in past Brookline tournies this year. There is also a meet in Pennsylvania the girls might travel to for March 3rd, which would be a great experience.

Boys Hockey Perfect So Far

By GREGORY PORTER, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

For the Boston Latin boys hockey team, winning is nothing new. Just take a look at the facts for yourselves; a 14-0-1 record this year, a number 10 ranking in Eastern Massachusetts, a 34-0-1 streak in the DCL/MVC league, and the possibility to make Eastern Mass's super 8+ tournament, with hockey powerhouses such as CM and BC High, for the first time in school history.

"We would love to go undefeated this year," said long time head coach Dave Coleman. "This league is tough though and right now we are taking it one game at a time."

Latin does face a number of talented foes throughout the year, but the Wolfpack have some talent of their own as well. Coleman relies on his outstanding senior class, including captains Brain Carthas and Charlie Levin, Nick Collins, Andy Collins, Joe Coffey, Jeff Arinella, John Tobin, TJ Hannon and Mike Manning.

"Most of these guys have been here for four years now," said Coleman. "They know this is their last chance to

can always look to the bench for help from juniors Mike McCarthy and Frank Duffy, just a few names from a large list of talented young players.

Going into the last weekend of January, Latin found itself facing a defining two games for their season. On Saturday,



January 24th, Latin edged out Northeastern conference leader Saugus with a 4-3 win. Less than 14 hours later, Latin matched up against Andover, the same team that provided them with their only blemish in their season, a 3-3 tie back on December 20th. Since then, the Wolfpack have won 14 straight, including a 4-2 victory over Andover in the rematch.

Latin proved both to themselves and to the rest of Eastern Massachusetts that this team was for real with their 2 impressive wins, over tough teams, in less than 24 hours. The Wolfpack hope this momentum can guide them to victories in upcoming games versus division 1 foes Revere and Walpole. From there, the team plans to gear up for a possible trip to the Super 8+ tournament or the division 2 tournament. The past two years Latin has lost in the semifinals in the tournament. "We have been disappointed the past few years as far as the tournament goes," said Coleman. "This year though, I think things will be different."

With the way the team has been playing as of late, it looks as if things will be different for Latin this year. Latin has its eyes on one goal this year as senior captain Carthas puts it, "We want to bring home the state championship this year."



make a statement." Hannon has been quite the great surprise and addition this year. Joining the team early this year, he has proved his skill as a goalie and taken over the starting position. One big advantage for the team has also been depth. Latin

Unsung Heroes

COMPLIED BY ERIN BURKE, LIS MAGUIRE, SONG-ANN NGUYEN, & KARYN RAUTENBERG, I



Boys Hockey
Jeff Arinella, I

It's hard to set oneself apart when on a team that is currently enjoying a 13-0-1 season (and hopefully with even more wins once the Argo goes to press), and it's equally difficult to choose one player as an unsung hero. No team achieves a ranking of 12th overall in the state nor an impressive 1st in Division II without the depth of a number of extremely talented players. However, the consistency and breakthrough talent which Jeff Arinella offers to the Boys Hockey team here at BLS has caught the eye of many, and is worth a special recognition.

With his six goals and ten assists thus far this season, Jeff has had a hand in a total of sixteen points in a matter of fourteen games. Playing since he was just four years old, he has worked tremendously on his game, and it has certainly paid off. Playing the position of 2nd line right wing is tough when on a team of immense talent, but Jeff has been able to shine on this, only his second year on the BLS squad. He hopes to continue to play hockey in college at either Wheaton or Bates, as he is being recruited to give back the same talent he has given to his high school team.

In addition to hockey, Jeff also harbors a love for the Latin language, and attributes much of his success to his Latin crew from last year (they know who they are). Besides loving school, Jeff also enjoys singing and eating at Burger King, both of which he is also talented in doing. When not playing hockey or being a goofball, Jeff excels in school and has been enjoying great academic achievement his senior year. An all-around great kid, Jeff is sure to continue these excelling ways in college, and we wish him luck in all his pursuits.



Boys Swimming
Seth Thomases, I

The sound of the gun goes off and Seth Thomases is off to a great start. This is a very familiar scene every time he competes in the 50, 100, and 200 Freestyle. Preceding his great performances on the Latin team, he won the "Best swimmer of the year award" in fifth grade at the Hennigan elementary school. Even at a young age, Seth showed that the competitive spirit is in him but he loves the sport mainly because of its team spirit. "Swimming is more of a team sport than an individual sport" he tries to explain. Seth is a great swimmer, but who could expect any less from a boy who could swim before he could walk?



Girls Hockey
Michelle Tassinari, I

Michelle Tassinari has truly made the transition from figure skater to hockey player gracefully. "I switched from the skimpy skirt and toepick for 50 pounds of equipment and a puck" she says while remembering the day she joined the Boston Latin School Varsity Girls Hockey Team in 9th grade. Ever since her first year on the team, she has helped the team win the Division 2 State Championships 3 times out of 4. Not only is Michelle one of the team captians (Other captians: Jess Price, I, and Courtney Carthas, III), she is also involved with the Yearbook, the National Honor Society, on the Outdoor Track Team, a life guard, and a skate guard to name a few. With all that she is involved in, she always remembers to smile and never forgets to remind others, like me to "Have fun!"



Girls Indoor Track
Abra Mason, I

If you've walked through the senior hallway recently, you've probably seen or heard Abra Mason. Abra Mason is one of the friendliest and most energetic people at Latin. Abra also uses her energy to run track; she has helped the Boston Latin Track team become not only one of the best teams in the DCL, but also one of the best in the State. Abra is now Co-captain of the Track Team and runs track three seasons. Abra began running track in Eighth Grade. She has won countless awards, including 3rd place in the DCL Championships (55meter), 3rd place in the State Relays (4x200), 2nd place in the Outdoor States (4x200) and 4th place in New England Championships (4x200). Abra's teammates all know about her amazing dedication to both the sport and her team. She is a born leader with the ability to motivate the entire team as well as the talent to win all her events. After graduating from Boston Latin School, Abra plans to continue her track career in college. Don't be surprised if one day Abra makes it into the Olympics. She is the type of person who will never give up and who will fight for her dream until it becomes reality.



Wrestling
Tommy Chin, I

Tommy Chin did not instantly become the star of either the Football Team or the Wrestling Team. Instead, Tommy has become known on both teams for putting his entire spirit into each and every practice. Brian Farnkoff, a fellow Football player and captain of the Wrestling Team says it best: "Tommy is known for his hard work and dedication. He's respected by both Coach Costello and Coach Azar as the hardest worker on the team. By the end of the season everybody knows it; they know he deserves every bit of playtime he gets." By the end of the Football season, Tommy's hard work had paid off; he was chosen to punt receive the last few starts of the season. Now at the tail end of the Wrestling season, he has earned a Varsity spot on the team. Tommy Chin does not now how to quit. Tommy is the type of player every coach cherishes. He will never give up until he gets what he wants. Tommy works hard, and deserves every bit of praise given to him. He will go very far in life, in both the athletic world, as well as in the business world.



Boys Basketball
Brian Hughes, I

Brian Hughes took up the sport of basketball when he was eight years old, and hasn't stopped since. For BLS Brian has added depth and determination to the squad, as well as versatility. By playing shooting guard, small forward, and point guard all at the discretion of the team, Brian has proven himself to be a diverse player counted on for his consistency. Captain of this year's team, it hasn't always been easy for this talented player. He was cut from the freshman team in the ninth grade, causing immense disappointment within himself. However, Brian merely bounced back, and his sophomore year he made j.v., and went one better junior year by being one of only four juniors to make the team. When not playing for high school, Brian plays on an AAU team in the spring called the Middlesex Magic. Always looking to improve, he attends a camp in the off-season named "The basketball players edge." Certainly, Brian looks to always have the edge on his competition. Looking to continue playing at the collegiate level at University of Scranton, Brian will certainly add his leadership and personality as well as talent to the team. Leaving his mark on this school's basketball history, he certainly will make more no matter where he ends up.



Boys Indoor Track
Chris Coletta, I

After a teammate made a great interception, (it was Andy who desperately wants the credit), then passed it laterally to Chris for some reflected glory for his birthday, he ran like a stoned jackrabbit into the wrong endzone. Given this scenario, one might conclude that Chris Coletta is the worst touch football player ever. But, to his credit, there is his speed. Hence, it would only make sense that he followed steps of his father and grandfather right onto the track. Chris has progressed since joining in ninth grade into a very valuable member and personality on the team.

Chris' goals for the track season are to run a 1000m in under 2:55 and for his 4x400 team to run a 3:35. These goals seem quite plausible for such a determined individual. His relay has a good shot at states, thanks in part to Chris' motivation. A lot of us are familiar with speed workouts and the grunts that accompany the mere thoughts of them but Chris is great at "making people do what they're supposed to do." When it comes to his own races, his blend of speed and endurance put him in good position to succeed. His ability to "run like a stoned jackrabbit" on the homestretch leaves his opponents in the dust.

Chris looks back fondly on his track days, but it's the "stupid stuff" he remembers mostly, he says. He says his biggest weakness is "juggling practice with everything else." Between Model UN meetings and jamming with his band, it's amazing he's been able to excel so greatly at this sport that requires constant cardio-training. Chris hopes to continue running at Carnegie-Mellon with a nationally renowned coach, Gary Meckley. Oh, and that whole school deal, he does that pretty well, too. Many teachers and peers have only sparkling words to say about this talented scholar-athlete. Chris is an awesome kid who will excel wherever he winds up; he walks with a purpose and finds a path to accomplish his goals. Whatever he does, he'll make others happy and laugh with his resilient personality.



Collins Twins

By Elizabeth Arias, I
Staff Writer

The score is 2-2 with a mere thirty seconds left on the clock at the much-anticipated State Tournament. Nick scans all over the rink for an opening and glimpses Andrew skating towards the net. The crowd begins chanting quietly under their breath "...Collins, Collins, Collins..." With a swift, precise underhanded pass, Andrew obtains possession of the puck and maneuvers himself around the two defensemen blocking his path. The chants increase nervously as he nears the net "...Collins, Collins, Collins..." Everything is inaudible to Andrew except the constant thud of his pounding heart. While protecting the puck, he seizes an opportunity to take a long-range slap shot, and scores the winning goal. The crowd leaps to their feet overjoyed, while the Collins' bask in their glory. It's a dream come true...

Andrew wakes up startled in class, (wiping the drool off with his sleeve) and realizes this was simply a dream. Yet, it seems this could very soon become a reality.

When the name Collins is heard, the first thing that comes to mind is, well, fleece pants. Ok, so the second thing that comes to mind is their determination and extraordinary talents. These powerhouses of skill demonstrate a raw and intense playing ability on the ice and on the field.

For being such talented hockey players, it was surprising to learn that both Nick and Andrew began playing hockey relatively late in comparison to their teammates for the South Boston Youth Hockey Program. From there, they went on to play for various select teams as well as the Latin Junior High Hockey Team. The two excelled quickly to Varsity under the leadership of Coach Coleman, whom Nick quips has been one of the main reasons for the success he's had at the school. While Nick is versatile in a number of positions, namely forward and more recently right wing, Andrew maintains physical play in the game as defenseman. Last year, the two were named League All-Stars and 1st Team All-Conference in the DCL as well as maintaining the irrefutable reputation of BLS's hockey team by remaining undefeated League Champions for four consecutive years. With the SBYH, both Nick and Andrew look forward to the upcoming Nationals in Colorado Springs, CO this April as Massachusetts' representatives, having earned the title of State Champs last year.

Andrew and Nick have also made great strides in baseball since the days when they played for the South Boston Little League to the Team Mass AAU in which they had the opportunities to visit Tennessee, Florida, and Arizona. Although Andrew has been playing for several years now, he proved last year that his talents could be put to use as catcher, a position he had never played before. Nick said of his brother, "He's a hard-worker, a very tough kid and competitor," and of their experience together, "It's been great because we push each other to be better. We help each other out, get advice, and criticism." Andrew adds, "We don't always get along, but we both know we mean well." Whatever they do, it seems to be working having come off the last two seasons as DCL Champs as well.

As far as next year is concerned, the Collins' are debating whether to wait a year to go to college or perhaps attend a Division I school and continue their success in both hockey and baseball. As for their last year at Latin, the Collins twins assure you they will not disappoint. Andrew effortlessly said, "I guarantee a State Championship in hockey and another League Championship in baseball." This certainly seems to be the time to do so with the talent of players like Nick and Andy Collins.

Travels With Superfan

By Joseph Coffey, I
Staff Writer

It's the dual county league. It's tough! It's competitive! Practice! Practice! Practice! The Wolfpack has met the challenge! The winter has been cold, but the Wolfpack is hot. Let's look at hockey.

Defending champs DCL/MVC-II Boys are back again and expect to prosper. Coach Coleman has helped his team mature as hockey players and men. Captain Brian Carthas is a wizard on the ice and expects a lot from his team. "The team has really started to come together as of late," said Carthas. "The offense has picked it up and our defense has been solid. We have high hopes for this year's tournament; no more third round knockouts. We are looking to bring home the title this year."

The seniors, Captain Charlie Levin, Jeff Arinella, Nick Collins, John Tobin, Mike Manning, Andrew Collins, Joey Coffey, and goalie T.J. Hannon have also vowed to meet the expectations which were left on the ice last season at tournament time. Prediction: State Finals/ North Sectional Champions. Keys to success: play as a team, goal tending, senior leadership. Says Captain Levin, otherwise known as "Sir Levin of Levinon", "It's been really frustrating the past couple of years. We are hoping that this year we will make a statement." Good luck men!

The Girls hockey team plans to repeat last year's success with another State Championship title. Captains Jessica Price, Courtney Carthas, and Michelle Tassinari lead a talented team of athletes. Kerry Brennan, Aislinn Doherty, and Catherine Foley are a high-flying line and Helen McCarthy is an experienced, split-saving goalie.

To date, the team has shown the type of motivation and character in achieving an 10-1-3 record that is needed for another Championship title. Prediction: repeat championship. Keys to success: goal tending. Team captain Jessica Price sums it up saying "We have team spirit, motivation, and leadership filled to the brim. I admire my

teammates because they give it their all in every practice, knowing that with every inch of effort we become a stronger team." With a dedicated coaching staff of Marty McDonough and Mary Balaconis, one can all but ask, "Who let the dogs out?"

The Boys Basketball team is improving with every game in a highly competitive league. Led by Captains Ugo Ojimba, Keith MacDonald, and Brian Hughes, the team strives to win against talented teams every week. Said team Captain Keith MacDonald, "Although our record is disappointing, we are in every game and will definitely upset teams in the second half of the season."

The seniors include Marquis Johnson, Owen Roddy, Matt Murphy, Chinedu Okongwu, Gary Webster, and Dave Sullivan. When asked about the team Dave replied "We want to still make the tournament. We have to work as a team and buckle down in practice. We play some of the best teams in the state but we aren't quitters" Predictions: competitive games. Keys to success: leadership. Coach McNamara's experience and drive will help the team win some of those "edge of the seat" games coming up. Good luck men!

The Girls basketball team with a 3-8 record has displayed courage and determination despite the loss of key player, senior Captain Ashley Britton due to a knee injury. Fortunately this purple squad has many exceptional athletes. Led by Captains Catherine Stone and Jackie Coffey, this young team is competitive and has a "never give up" attitude. Alexandra Alukian's return to the line up, the skills of Kristen Stone and the hustle of Stephanie Manekis have made the season exciting thus far. Prediction: competitive games. Keys to success: team spirit, no injuries. Jackie Coffey, who just happened to be in the neighborhood, when asked about the team said, "Go away, Joe."

Well folks, that wraps up the Superfan article for this issue. It looks like we have an exciting end to the winter season of discontent. I hope to see everyone attending some games and cheering on these heroic teams of purple and white. Until next time, good night Boston Latin!

Boys Swimming Making Waves This Season

By Erin Burke, I & Sharon Silverman, IV
Sports Editor & Contributing Writer

In a league of swimming, power-houses, the Boston Latin Boys Swim Team is intent on stepping up to the fierce competition. With a slew of returning strong aquatic-enthusiasts, the squad looks toward extending the successes enjoyed last year.

Senior captains Seth Thomases, Daniel O'Reilly, and Kevin Mann have already taken the first measures in ensuring an extensive lineup of both size and depth, and all three have strong hopes that this season will prove to be an abundantly successful one with which to end their high school career.s. The leadership qualities all three offer to this team are vital to its success, and they help to create the "team" atmosphere which helps to propel these athletes forward. Freestyle sprinter and butterflyer Seth Thomases has proven to be one of the most valuable members of the squad with his strong finishes in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle and the 100 fly. Backstroker Daniel O'Reilly returns as an integral member of the team due to his outstanding performances in both the 100 yard backstroke and freestyle. Versatile Kevin Mann swims freestyle and is key with his achievements ranging from the 50 freestyle to the 500 freestyle. All three are members of the various relays who look to repeat a sectional and even state meet showing.

Returning sophomores include John Moore, Jimmy Sun, Ben Dockery, and Sean Flaherty. Moore proves to be a valuable asset with his flexible talents in the 200 individual medley, the 100 yard breaststroke, and the 500 freestyle. Jimmy Sun's performances in the 100 breaststroke and the 100 butterfly continue to improve and add depth to the team. Backstroker Ben Dockery continues his input in the 100

backstroke as well as the 100 freestyle, while Flaherty's determination in the freestyle events helps push the team to victory. Eighth grader Joe Kane's hard work will prove to pay off again this year in his 500 freestyle, as he was one of the most improved swimmers on the squad last year. These young athletes look to improving all-around this year as they will be depended on to step up for next year's season. Also, this year, there are several new members of the team who will hopefully become significant contributors to the team's success. The addition of younger, more inexperienced swimmers usually proves to play an important role in the long-run success of the team. Strategically planning for the future, after the

veterans have left and new leaders are needed to emerge the team has taken another step towards success in this area.

While swimming often takes a back seat (and a back page) to other, more established sports, the current crew of pool jockeys is looking to become infamous for their spunky blend of distance endurance and sprint speed. And whatever the results of their final competitions, they've enriched swimming's image at Latin.

Each swimmer hopes to be present at the end of the season at the sectional and state meets, which require demanding qualifying cuts. Says Captain Dan O'Reilly of the dedication and hard work of the team, "While we may not exactly be the best team in the school, we have fun. A lot of people underestimate

swimming, and treat it like a joke. I've played on many sports teams, and can honestly say that this is the hardest one. Coach Conley is a great guy, and he works us hard, but at the same time he's always willing to help us out." His teammates agree. Thanks to the dedication of coaches Bruce Conley and Caity O'Reilly, the team should be ready to make a mark in the Dual County League this season. They will no doubt make a splash.



Tough Year For Boys B-ball


By LINDSAY CONLIN, I & GREGORY PORTER, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITORS

In a year that has proved to be successful so far for the Latin hockey program, our basketball program appears to be at the opposite pole. The team went into the season expecting a rebuilding year and that's exactly what it has been so far.

Playing in the DCL is no cup of tea, as many of the Latin teams know, but this is especially true for the basketball program. With 3 teams ranked in the top 20 in Eastern Massachusettes, including Newton South and Acton-Boxborough, the Wolfpack's 4-10 record is nothing to be ashamed of.

"It's been a tough year," said longtime coach McNamara. "The talent's there, we just haven't put it all together."

The team has experienced heavy losses this year that have resulted in a pool of players with less experience but just as much potential, desire, and ability as any other team in the league. Mid-way through the season, the pack lost one of their captains and a key player, Keith MacDonald, to a broken foot. The team has also been forced to play without seniors Christian O'Donnell and Pat Pinto. Senior Gary Webster was unable to play at the beginning of the year because of a wrist injury and Ray Chandler also only played half a season



Despite these setbacks, the team has been able to gain momentum for the end of the season. Led by senior captains Brian Hughes and Ugo Ojimba, and under the advice and moral support of their fallen captain, the team is holding their heads above water. Brian and Ugo as well as sophmore Matt Flakes have become the team's unstoppable scoring trio. Senior Matt Murphy has stepped up as starting power forward and Chinedu Okuongo and Frankie Arvelo have also become important elements throughout the season. Owen Roddy and Dave Sullivan utilizing their height, agility, and skill have become two great advantages to the team as well.

With only a few more games left this season, the team is looking forward to finishing the year solidly building off its late season wins. Although they have not had a "dream-team" season, the group has had a productive year feeding off of its fresh talent and capitalizing on its ever present opportunities for growth and experience. All signs seem to point to both a potent and successful team for next year, so let the league be warned. The Wolfpack is on the prowl...

Indoor Track

By LINDSAY CONLIN, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As far as seasons go, the girls and boys indoor track teams have had tough one. Indoor track teams generally don't fare too well outside, and so those dreaded cold Mondays and Wednesdays were a subject of complaints. A severe change in the composition of the team has also become an obstacle to overcome. The strengths and weaknesses of the team have shifted from one event to another and constant readjustments have made it hard for the individuals to adjust and grow in their event. Both teams have also had to combat a war on injuries which eventually led to decreased membership towards the end of the season.

Despite all of these setbacks that the girls and boys have faced, the team finished the season with smiles on their faces and a great sense of accomplishment on their minds. The girls finished the season 6 and 2 and the boys finished 2 and 6, and with many on the team qualifying for both states and nationals, no one feels like the season is at all sub-par to their undefeated season last year. Leading the charge this year were senior captains Aisha Cort and Dee Odebola as well as

Girls Basketball On The Rebound

By KATY MEAGHER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It hasn't been the easiest season for the BLS Girls' Basketball Team.

The team unfortunately lost their sole senior Ashley Britton, one of the captains, because of a torn ligament in her knee. Another captain, Jackie Coffey, hurt her ankle early in the season but quickly recovered and resumed playing. Sophomore Alex Allukian was missing in action for a few games around Christmas because of ankle surgery. Corey Sylvester, also a sophomore, sprained her ankle at practice, but hopes to return in a few weeks. Although they seem on the rebound, these unexpected injuries have allowed the team to search for talent in other places. The team is being kept alive due to the surge of new talent and fresh faces that will surely be tomorrow's stars.

If you walk into the BLS gym any day after school, you will find these devoted players in their practice. This usually consists of running plays and endless drills of passing, shooting and running, each player striving to better her game. Led by Junior Captain Coffey and Sophomore Captain Catherine Stone, and under the guidance of long time Coach Bennie Myers and Assistant Coach McClain, the team is holding strong.

The 2000-2001 is a young team, but filled with energy, excitement, and a passion for basketball. The juniors have been in charge of the court this season. Key players Jackie Coffey and Kate Pappas are tough on defense as well as offense.

Other noteworthy players include Jen Olsen and Amelia Kirnon, while spectators should also watch for the stamina of Leigh Gilmore and Kate Naber. The sophomores, Catherine Stone, Alex Allukian, Lauren Scagnoli, Corey Sylvester, Stephanie Maneikis, and Annie Roddy all demonstrate their amazing basketball capability when on the court. Janelle Jackson and Kristen Stone, merely freshmen are, always performing to their potential for the team. "We had a tough beginning," admits Coffey, "but now we are coming together as a team. We are all equally talented players."


On January 12, 2001, the team officially won their first game against Bedford. "We felt pretty good about that game from the start and it was our first home night game," expresses Junior Kate Pappas, "As a result, we went out there with a lot of potential, and everyone played their heart out. We came out of there with a great win!"

The team deserves a lot of credit for their hard work and determination. Things continue to be tough on the Lady Wolfpack with a 2-10 record, but they deserve a lot of praise with all that they have had to overcome.

Junior Leigh Gilmore says, "We are a tough team, and we have a lot of heart." Their enthusiasm is fabulous, as they proudly wear their purple and white uniforms on to court. With a young team, the team knows this is a rebuilding year. But they are both confident and exciting about the experience and skill that they will be prepared to show off next year. Let this be a warning to the league; the Lady Wolfpack will be a potent force ready to spring into action.

junior Bridget Butler. They inspired both desire and confidence in their teammates as well as leadership. Other veteran leaders on the team also stepped forward to lend a helping hand to the younger members of the team who next year will be the future of Boston Latin Track. These included sprinters Abra Mason, Tasheka Folkes, and Jessica Porter, as well as distance runners Keri Sullivan and Caroline O'Donnell. Finally, jumpers Lindsay Conlin, Thrisha Rose and Erin Burke were forced to step up as well. The boys were led by juniors Matt Simonini and Joan Duran and senior Chris Colletta. Staying together as a team become an important goal and under the superb guidance of coaches Tony DaRocha, Denise Pritchard, Alice Kramer and Will McCollum the team had no problem supporting each other.

In a season that was expected to be a rebuilding year, the team out-performed all expectations. The girls, after five years at the top of the DCL, finished third in the Championship meet, losing by two points. Vital points were scored by all of the seniors including a stellar performance by the 4X200 relay team. The boys finished an impressive fourth in the DCL Championship meet, regardless of their lack in numbers. Junior Chris Whitmore placed first in the 55m dash and the long jumping crew racked up equally valuable points to give the boys such a great finish. The season has been successful for both the boys and the girls and everyone is looking forward to an equally fabulous outdoor season.



Jessica Price

By MEGHAN DAVOREN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Well-known for her luminous smile and energetic attitude, this blonde bombshell is perhaps most deserving of attention for the many accomplishments of her amazing hockey career at Boston Latin School. Jessica Price has been synonymous with the Girls Varsity Hockey team since its inception five years ago, and has enjoyed a wildly good ride.

Jess started playing at the age of eight more in response to her brother's taunt than for pure love of the game. Sam (infamous in his own right) played hockey and, a typically unenlightened boy, informed Jessica that "girls don't play hockey." So, she immediately demanded to be on the hockey team and has been knocking everyone's skates off since.

Jessica has been a member of the team since its inaugural season when, as an eighth grader, she was a standout contributor. The team won the Division II Eastern Massachusetts Championship its first two seasons, made it to the semis the third, reclaimed their championship last year, and Jessie assures us, are on their way to a championship fifth season. Voted captain as a sophomore, she has held the position of leadership on the team for the past three years all while working her magic on the ice. Three times the recipient of the Coaches' Award, Jessica has also been deservedly acknowledged as the unsung hero and MVP of the team. Chosen First Team League All Star five years running, she has 10 goals and 9 assists to date - this for a defenseman is not too shabby. Although she was even nominated as All Scholastic last year, Jessica, however, is quick to point out that the awards mean nothing and would not be imaginable without the support of her team.

Jess sings praises of her teammates, especially the seniors, whom she has played with since the team began. "They are awesome. Each has her own style of play that they carry with them and it adds to the flavor of the team." Though they're not the most experienced team, they persevere, working twice as hard for their wins. As Jess says, "If Latin teaches you anything, it's to fight. You fight for grades, for respect, and on the hockey team we fight to win everything we deserve."

Jessica is thankful to have had the chance to work with Coach Marty McDonough, along with Mary Balaconis. She'll be leaving with many wonderful memories, a great sense of camaraderie, and fun that she and her teammates have shared.

For those of you out there of the same sentiment as her brother, Jess does acknowledge that boys hockey is more physical. She reminds you however that girls hockey is still fast and furious, and requires intellect and skillful calculation. After all not everything is about brute strength. This season she is yet again excelling on the ice. She is at her best when she can be involved in everything. While balancing school and Latin hockey, Jessica is also a member of the very competitive Charles River Midget Girls. A versatile and focused athlete, Jess also participated on the Varsity Girls Soccer team for the past two seasons. Although she harbors no definite plans for the future, hopefully they will involve playing hockey at Boston College. Jessica also has a strong desire for her college plans to include majoring in advertisement, an area in which she is strongly interested in. Regardless of where she winds up, it is most definite that hockey will be part of her life for at least four more years.

As for now, she smiles at the thought of her family in the stands, the cheering of her father, "the greatest sports fan ever," and the sheer joy of all her hockey triumphs. Jessie is passionate in her love of the sport and deserves all the acclaim awarded her, for she is a truly great athlete and person. She has enjoyed great success as a high school student, a high school hockey player, and she will be missed next year. Her talent and personality adds to the school and the teams in a great way, and the community where she goes next year will be lucky to experience everything Jessica has to offer them.

“What she does not say in words, she reveals powerfully in her artwork.”

-Dianna Buda



A Place of Significance

By TAM PHAM

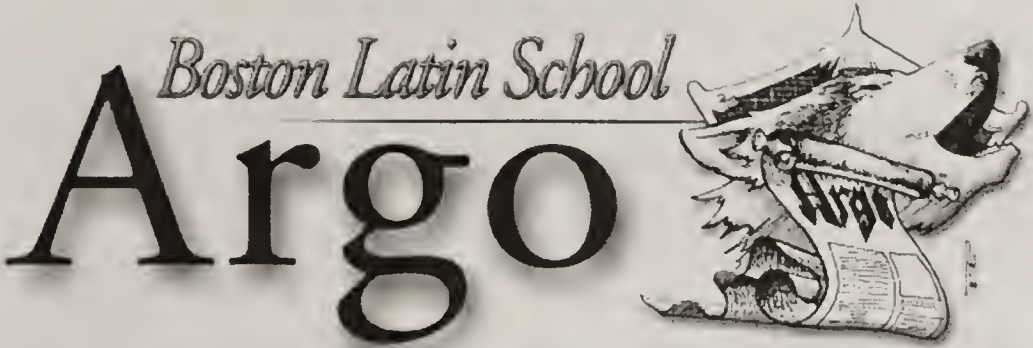
Fully practicing my liberties to freedom of speech, I was innocently flipping through the pages of various online diaries one Sunday morning, curious to make a stint as a voyeur. Much to my dismay, as an individual particularly repelled by the popularity of voyeurism, I was captivated with this particular website. It networked the intriguing insights of today's frustrated youth. I was immediately taken with the stark honesty of their words, anonymously blinking on a forgiving screen. Somehow feeling like an intruder, I convinced myself that I was watching their soul, the root to everything that constitutes who we are, including our superficial selves. Exterior images have always puzzled me as an introvert struggling to comprehend the actions of my peers and the possible motives behind them. Cynically, I believed that every action was calculated, that for every statement poured forth from someone's lips, there was a valid, rational,

and solid connection to that person's consciousness. At times I felt that my soul would eventually burst out from being enclosed by my tyrannical rule, and from what I've observed of my recent behavior, this moment is due for fruition. I have since learned of one aspect of the true human spirit.

Having always hidden beneath a shell of safety, afraid to reveal my true self, I wondered how others went about carrying their souls inside, and if they ever let their souls roam unfettered like wild beasts. As a child I believed that I could see the soul of others peeping out from their hiding places whenever they burst into laughter. With their eyes sparkling and squinting, the lines and grooves of their solemn faces metamorphosed into a rare expression of joy. How amazed I was to stand and look at a crowd one blazing night of my recent youth as it danced on the street at a block party, each member transformed into an instrument of passionate energy. They were no longer the set, predictable programs that I saw every gray morning heading to work, but spirits reaching for that one intangible emotion. The woman

whom my brother and I saw every morning, patiently waiting at sunrise in her shawl for a carpool, transformed into a being of sensual beauty, shedding a side to herself that could groove to the beat. They were simply feeling — the groove, the beat, the bass, the movement, the energy. I stood mesmerized by their limbs as they sliced the air with seductive slashes, their hips rotating, bodies pulsating with this contagious fire. Before the flames could lick my-soul, I became conscious of the fact that I was simply standing there, just standing. I felt my-soul kicking and screaming inside jump out and to shake my body to the booming rhythm blasting from the eight-foot towers. But I continued to stand, paralyzed by the realization that I was unable to set my soul free. Then it happened, the infectious dancing virus overcame my body, which slowly began to twitch to the cadence. I willingly surrendered my body to the moment, which was felt by all at that exact moment. It was a powerful experience, to both free my soul and to give it to the others around me.

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Seniors Await Word On Signout Date, Community Service Perks

BY ANDREW BARR, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Headmaster Kelley recently denied a persistent rumor that seniors who have performed one hundred hours of community service will be allowed to sign out ten days before the officially scheduled end of the senior year.

According to Ms. Kelley, no such promise was ever made, either by herself or by Headmaster Emeritus Contompasis. She told the Argo that signout dates are set based on the guidelines of the State Department of Education. In fact, no signout dates have been set for any part of the senior class.

Graduation will take place on Sunday, June 10. In the past, seniors have signed out on or around the date of the prom. This year's senior prom is scheduled for Thursday, June 7. The Boston Public Schools calendar allows for seniors to be released on the 170th day of the school year. This was to have been June 6, but four snow-related cancellations have pushed that date back to Tuesday, June 12. This means that seniors have no guarantee from the School Committee that graduation will mark the end of their Latin School careers. And, for the record, the final day of school for all students will be Monday, June 27.

Under what many Latin school teachers and alums remember as Mr. Contompasis's informal pledge then, seniors who had performed community service would be allowed to sign out on Tuesday, May 29, ten days before the BPS date. But although collective Latin School memory insists that Mr. Contompasis allowed this early signout, Ms. Kelley told the Argo that she was unfamiliar with any such pledge, and further asserted that she is not prepared to make a similar one.

Whatever system was in place, it ended when Ms. Kelley took the reins at BLS. Seniors, operating under the assumption that 100 hours would "buy them" ten days, performed community service under the encouragement of Senior Advisor Mr. Keitt. In the spring, Ms. Kelley informed Mr. Keitt that the altruistic seniors would not receive the ten days, leaving some feeling out of the loop and frustrated at what many perceived as a promise implied and then broken.

Now seniors are busy finishing their community service hours under a similar assumption. No pledge was made in September, but Ms. Kelley told the Argo that she "bends

the rules" for seniors who have completed community service hours and also maintained a high standard of effort and punctual attendance. In other words, any early signout she is able to grant will be contingent upon the avoidance of senior slumps.

This information strikes a nerve with many seniors, who had taken Ms. Kelley's assertions that she would "look favorably" upon the traditional allotment of service hours as a de facto promise of an early signout. Ms. Kelley insisted that her hands were tied, however, and she said that she will be unable to provide concrete information until after the School Department officially "allows" her to do so.

But Ms. Kelley explained definitively how the system works. Each year, the School Department issues a memo to headmasters and principals in the district. The memo contains a date, designated as the earliest upon which seniors could be released. The practice of releasing seniors before this date, Ms. Kelley revealed, is in contradiction with the accepted policy of the School Department. But the special position of BLS at the top of the BPS ladder has allowed headmasters to bend the rules for deserving seniors.

However, when that memo is issued (and it will not likely be before the end of April), the date on it could very well be June 12th. Ms. Kelley said that she would not force seniors to return after graduation. In fact, the BPS's only mandate on this point is that no school may schedule graduations before June 7th. Since Ms. Kelley expressed no unwillingness to release seniors early, the date of May 29th (ten days early) seems a logical one for seniors to circle on their calendars. In fact, she stated that her preference would be to release seniors on May 18th, in order to have them pursue a long-term community service project.

Weston High School, where the headmaster spent last week, features a similar program. Seniors are released on May 7th there, and must secure a three-week internship or propose a project that serves the community. Similar programs exist at Concord-Carlisle High and Dover-Sherborne.

So as the Class of 2001 looks ahead to leaving with baited breath, the administration waits as well, for the memo from the Superintendent that will tell Ms. Kelley when she can release the weary seniors.

Students Seek Reforms

BY ANTONIUS WIRIADJAJA, I & CATHERINE D. ANDERSON, I
Contributing Writers

On January 30, 2001, an announcement was made to the members of Class I that no one expected. On that day I saw people with whom I have spent six years in school, people I know and respect break into pieces. The world had lost one of its own due to foolish reasons. Worse, it was preventable.

What happened in the weeks following that was surprising. Grief-stricken students faced the difficulty of continuing with life. We turned to the school for support. Speeches were made in an attempt to comfort us, but it was only comfort.

Students do not know how to deal with the sudden death of a loved one, especially with rumors of suicide and depression circulating. We turned to adults in the hope that they could help, only to discover that they were as inexperienced as we were. For most teachers, one statement or speech about death was enough. Unfortunately, this brevity was the cause of some misinformation that was circulating about the cause of the death. Others avoided the subject, which did not do any good either.

This is not the first time that there has been a death in the school; indeed, it is the second death this year, and there have been complaints that the BLS community does not give enough support to the grieving students. The guidance counselors try, but they are too busy, especially when the deaths come in the middle of most people's applications processes. Nobody at BLS, besides Laura Basili, who is always at Children's Hospital, is professionally trained to help students with the grieving process. It is no one's fault, but it does need to be changed.

A group of students, working with the head of the guidance department, Mr. Montague, came together to form Students Working for a New Community (SWAN Community). Meeting every Thursday, we discuss the problems in how the was the situation was handled, and how we can improve the preparedness of the school for such a tragic event when it happens again. It was founded on the belief that the confusion after Tam's death was avoidable, and certainly does not have to happen again. SWAN Community members decided that educating students would be key. The organization has decided to have BLS participate, for the first time, in National Childhood Depression Awareness Day on May 8th. The main events will focus on speakers coming from the Association for the Mentally Ill. They will speak in the Black Box Theater about helping friends or family members who students suspect may be suffering from a mental illness. All students are free to attend whenever they have a free period

The SWAN Community also hopes to create a Yellow Ribbon group. This would be a hot line a student could call to talk to someone if he or she feels depressed and needs to talk. Hopefully within a year we will have a hot line up to help the students of the Latin School and all of Boston. The program hopes to expand beyond the school for the sake of students throughout the city.

Obviously, our main goal of bringing the school together and reeducating is long term. It is not something the group of mostly seniors who are in SWAN Community now can reach before we graduate, but we can start new traditions at BLS and hope that they become as important as the old ones. We can hope that if tragedy should ever strike again, the BLS community will be able to come together and mourn, not despair.

Keeping the Balance?

BY MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II
News Editor

This time of year, mailboxes of sixth grade students all over Boston are filling up with fateful slips of paper: exam school assignments. While some students read their acceptance notices with sighs of relief, one student I know has decided to turn down her invitation to Boston Latin. Her mother says she will consider other Boston Public high schools for her daughter, who is Hispanic. "After visiting and talking with a lot of BLS students, we decided not to send our daughter here because we don't think it is a supportive environment for students of color." The family's concerns are understandable.

The Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, which has provided support for Hispanic students at BLS for years, recently lost all of its funding. The program worked with a \$90,000 budget this year; next year, the Superintendent's 2001-2002 Boston Public Schools (BPS) budget provides zero funds for TAG, due to state cutbacks on desegregation programs.

Of the 451 students invited to enter BLS next year, 56 are black and 28 are Hispanic. Immediately after the race-conscious admissions policy was abandoned four years ago, the number of black and Hispanic invitees was cut in half, and it has not recovered since. Some prospective students declined the invitation to BLS because of the lack of diversity, and that is not the only indication that race issues exist which need to be dealt with.

Of the 63,200 students in the BPS system, 85 percent are non-white. Our school does not reflect the population of the public school system: This year's Boston Latin invitees are only 40 percent non-white. In fact, 200 of this year's 451 invitees are white students from private and parochial schools, and more than half (57 percent) of the invitees are from private schools.

In the absence of the admissions policy, alternative programs have been launched to increase diversity. However, because they lack a strategy of inclusion on all levels—by student groups, parent groups, and teachers—they fail to change the student body.

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News

Gallagher Named New PIC Officer

By **Jenny Chan, III**
Assistant Copy Editor

“I have to get a job.”

This quote always manages to weave its way through conversations among friends. And because summer is just around the corner, the phrase will echo in the hallways of Boston Latin School.

I notice someone new in the midst of the students. A tall man, who looks like a serious-minded businessman, holds a pad of yellow paper as he marvels at the large number of students at Boston Latin School.

The man I observed happens to be new PIC specialist Brian Gallagher.

Mr. Gallagher grew up in New Jersey and attended Hamilton College in New York. After majoring in French and communication studies, Mr. Gallagher became a teacher who taught French, Spanish, and drama at Westchester Academy in North Carolina.

He got his first taste of Boston when he volunteered for Project Bread two summers ago. For this charitable organization he organized the database; this explains his devotion to help BLS students as a PIC specialist. The interaction with many people and the behind the scenes work at Project Bread proved to be an inspiring experience.

“It was good behind the scenes...I got to learn about how the organization was run. Working at Project Bread was like a puzzle; it was fascinating how it all came together,” Gallagher recalls.

After his teaching experience, Gallagher went to Switzerland and Spain to help out at summer camps. Then Gallagher got news of the PIC specialist position through his sister, who happens to live in Boston. He decided to try out for the job because the location was where most of his college friends were living. Since his ability to organize was exceptional, he proved to be a suitable person for replacing Mr. Dervan. Perhaps working for the altruistic organization has helped him realize his love for assisting others.

Ever since he has started working at Boston Latin School, Mr. Gallagher has loved every minute of his day.

“The students are excellent to work with; they are personable, eager, and outgoing. I also like working with different organizations to help the BLS community,” Mr. Gallagher boldly comments.

Due to his enthusiasm for his job, it is evident to the students that the new PIC specialist has an incredible work ethic. Everyday, hundreds of students trust him to find a great job suitable for their interests.

Other than his work, Mr. Gallagher happens to be an outgoing person. His hobbies include running, skiing, golf and tennis. Mr. Gallagher has a passion for languages; thus, he enjoys traveling to Europe to practice his proficiency in the Romance languages. He even joked about using fake Italian the last time he went skiing.

If you are looking for a summer job, or any job in particular, please feel free to schedule an appointment with Mr. Gallagher in 026. From observing an appointment between Mr. Gallagher and a student, I can guarantee that he will go beyond the limits to get a job you will love.

New Elective Announced

By **Gabriela Perez-Hobrecker, II**
Staff Writer

In light of the current energy crisis and the possibility of the drilling for oil in the reservation in Alaska, it is timely that a science department at BLS is offering a new course available for next year’s seniors: Environmental Science with Mr. Izzo. This is the first time that this course is being offered at Latin. In a sense, this class is an experiment, and the students who will be taking the class are the guinea pigs. If the class is successful, there may be other classes similar to Environmental Science added to the elective choices, such as Astronomy.

The response to this class from the student body has been very enthusiastic. Over eighty current juniors, applied for a seat in the next year’s class. Originally, there was only going to be one class, but since the interest demonstrated was so great, the course has been expanded into two classes. Currently, there are still approximately fifteen to eighteen students on a waiting list. Over the next few years, Mr. Izzo hopes to expand the course, so that an AP section will be offered in the future, as well as two regular classes. He also hopes that the class will be available for both juniors and seniors.

In order to take Environmental Science next year there are no prerequisites, however, after the first year it will most likely be required that a student have taken a year of Biology as well as Chemistry.

Mr. Izzo describes the class as a “full lab science.” The course will focus mostly on people and their interaction with the environment as well as the effects that they have had on the environment over the years. The class will be “hands-on” oriented. Students will conduct labs and work in the laboratory approximately twice a week. One example is a lab that tests different substances in various water sources. The students would take the samples of the water, analyze the substances in the water, and make conclusions from the data.

Although the Environmental Science class varies from the more traditional Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, the class still follows the rules of all the science classes at Latin and a science project is required. However, Mr. Izzo says that he plans to allow the students to work in pairs. Working with partners will permit students more flexibility in their projects, and they may research a science-related topic that they are truly interested in, instead of simply picking a project from a book to do.

Next year’s class does not yet have a set textbook to work with. Mr. Izzo is, at this time, speaking with several teachers at other schools that offer the same course in order to explore the possibilities of different books that can be used. He has already looked at several high-school editions, however, he says that they seem too elementary; therefore, he is now looking into other avenues for college-level texts.

Next year’s Environmental Science class appears to be an interesting and informative class. Hopefully, it will be a success that will allow for an expansion of the class and the addition of other diverse science courses at Boston Latin School.

Unsung Janitors Maintain Building

By **Meredith Garry, III**
Staff Writer

It’s everywhere - in the bathrooms, in the hallways and in the classroom. You might do it, and at the very least, you know someone who does it. At the Latin school, it is almost like a tradition. There are scrawlings on the bathroom wall that have been there for as long as I can remember. But these habits go beyond tagging a bathroom stall. Around the school, it seems that people think nothing of disrespecting their surroundings, and, as a result, the atmosphere around them. There is no obvious reason for this type of behavior, besides that people have apparently forgotten who has to clean up after them.

One particularly disrespectful thing that students have a habit of doing is going out of their way to trash bathrooms. Everyone has seen it. The infamous “toilet paper roll” clog jobs. Writing all over bathroom stalls, mirrors, walls, etc. Earlier this year, there was allegedly an incident in the boys’ basement bathroom involving feces all over the entire bathroom (being a girl, I cannot verify this claim). Regardless, there is only one word to describe this type of behavior: sick. What would make a person choose to commit this type of action? Not only is it unappealing to fellow students, someone does have to clean it up.

Everyone knows who the janitors are. We see them day after day, steadily working to make the school aesthetically pleasing for us. In fact, rarely is there a time that you are unable to find one of the janitors in the building. Perhaps you are there before school, even before it is “officially” opened. Usually there is at least one custodian tidying up before we can get in the building to trash it. After school, a new crew comes in to pick up our accumulated waste. Have you ever stopped to thank one of the men and women who work so hard to make sure our school is spotless for us everyday? Of course, it is not often that we stop to thank a stranger. However, the entire custodial staff deserves our respect and thanks for a job well done.

I’m not sure why so many people are apparently apathetic to the fact that the custodians are actual human beings with families, hobbies, and feelings. Admit it - you, too, have forgotten to put your chair up on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (despite the fact that there is a sign somewhere in the classroom that includes the words “thank you”). It is not very difficult to keep respect for the custodians in mind the next time you feel the urge to denounce a classmate publicly on the wall.

Some people might say that custodians are paid to clean the building in which they work. That is true; but it is simply rude and inconsiderate to disrespect anyone who works so hard for your benefit. The custodians have to work every day, and even before school starts in September. Many people just do not realize that the custodians are such a key part of our daily school lives. Can you imagine how disgusting it would be if the school (especially the bathrooms) were not cleaned for just one week? The custodians work much harder than we give them credit for; so please do not forget to put up your chairs, clean up after yourself and thank your janitors.

Making History: The Two Bostons

By **Spencer C. Sleeper, II** and
Eugene Kreydin, I
Editorial Board Associate & News Editor

As the Senior Concert Band of Boston Latin School rehearsed the popular Irish folk song “Londonderry Air,” they were greeted with another presence from the British Isles: the Worshipful Lord Mayor George Danby of Boston, England. During the week of March 30th, 2001, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Mayor George Danby initiated a partnership to promote an historical understanding and cultural ties between the two sister cities.

Among other notable points of interest around the city, Mayor Danby visited our very own Boston Latin School. Mayor Danby and some of his entourage were guests

of Boston Latin School, which was modeled on the Boston Grammar School. During the visit, a formal link among Latin School and Boston Grammar School and Boston High School in England was announced.

In a letter dated March 13, 2001, John E. Neal, Headmaster of the Boston Grammar School (established in 1555) in South End, Boston, Lincolnshire wrote, “To the Principal of The Latin School, Boston: On behalf of the Governors and Staff of Boston Grammar School I would like to extend our best wishes to the members of The Latin School. We fully support the aims of the visit and look forward to a developing connection between [our] two schools.” Boston Latin School was also presented with a school portrait by James R. Howes, Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Boston and Chairman of the Foundation of

Governors of Boston Grammar School. In addition, three other portraits were donated as well.

Mayor Danby and Mayor Menino signed and exchanged commemorative calligraphies to seal the Historic Bostons Partnership. Mr. Menino described the event as “a historic day” which he hoped would attract more tourists on both sides of the Atlantic and lead to cultural exchange visits between the two settlements. “The world is a very much smaller place than it used to be, and there are lots of links for us to build on. Boston Latin School is one of the most respected schools in the United States, and it started in Boston, England,” said Mayor Menino. Mayor Danby said the link was very important to the people in Boston, Lincolnshire. “Only about a third of the people in Boston, Massachusetts, know of the

existence of Boston, Lincolnshire, whereas in Lincolnshire, everyone knows about Boston, Massachusetts,” he said. At the reception, a portable exhibit celebrating the two Bostons was unveiled. This will be on display at the Boston Public Library in Copley before going on a tour of libraries in the city.

A public meeting at the Boston Public Library also welcomed the Lincolnshire party when two former mayors of Boston, England, Judy Jammack and Alan Day, were introduced. ” Boston Borough Council Chief Executive Mark James said: “For a variety of reasons the links between our Boston and Boston, Massachusetts, have not been active for a number of years. The availability of e-mail and the Internet makes it easier for those contacts to be re-established and I can see real benefits in the educational and cultural links that can be developed.”

Can You Dig The Big Dig?

By Max Eskin, I
Forum Layout Editor

Nobody living in Boston has been able to avoid the nightmare that is the Big Dig. But many people know little about what exactly has been involved in this construction project. Here is a brief rundown.

The main purpose of the project has been to replace the green elevated central artery highway that runs through downtown Boston with an underground tunnel. Other related parts are the Ted Williams tunnel, which was completed a long time ago, the third harbor tunnel, which will be in addition to the Sumner and Callahan tunnels, as well as extensions and improvements to other

highways.

The Big Dig is frequently denigrated for being behind schedule, over budget, and insufficient. The first two are debatable. Only recently an investigation began based on allegations that in fact the Big Dig is not behind schedule or over budget - it's just that the managers revealed the real schedule and cost little-by-little. That the new tunnel won't really help with traffic may be true. It is designed to carry something like 245,000 vehicles per day, and the central artery currently carries 190,000. Therefore it is probable that by 2050, we will be back to the same traffic situation, only underground.

Still, we will be better off. The roof of the tunnel will be covered with park space, thus making downtown a much nicer place

to be, and much more amenable to business. 29 miles of utility lines have been relocated in order to make room for the tunnel from a spiderweb of pipes into neat bundles that can be much more easily maintained. Seven five-story buildings are being built containing ventilation equipment for the tunnel. Boston air should end up being much cleaner; the official estimate is that the Carbon Monoxide levels in the air will be reduced by 12%. A command center is also being constructed where critical points of the highway system will be monitored on computer screens. Hopefully, this will lead to an improvement in safety.

Another parallel tunnel project is the MBTA's upgrade of its infrastructure. North Station is being expanded and placed

completely underground. The elevated railroad will be torn down all the way up to the Charles River bridge, where the tunnel will surface. A new service called the Silver Line is also being built which will go from Dudley Square through downtown to the Airport terminals. Unlike the other lines, it will be a bus line running partially in a separate lane and partially in tunnels. The buses will use a hybrid system such that they will run on electricity underground and on gasoline on the surface.

All of this should be completed by 2005, when Boston will finally be able to breathe a collective breath of relief and start using the long-awaited facilities. But for now, the eager citizens of Boston must remain on-lookers, watching andwaiting for the Big Dig's big day.

The Future of Teachers: RetirementPlus

By Spencer C. Sleeper, II
& Kanli Zhu, II
Ed. Board Associate & Contributing Writer

In schools throughout America, more newer teachers are entering the scene as veteran teachers retire. The new RetirementPlus Bill, passed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this year, is expected to exacerbate the situation. This new bill is expected to retire approximately half of the teachers in Massachusetts within the next five years. Now teachers who buy into the plan will be allowed to retire four or more years earlier, at the age of fifty-seven, whereas under the old plan, these same teachers could not retire until the age of sixty-one.

At Boston Latin School, it is estimated that the number of teachers who retire each year will be in the double digits. However, not every teacher will be off to Aruba next year; those teachers who were going to retire soon under normal circumstances are advised not to buy into the new plan. According to the bill, all new teachers are automatically entered into the new plan, and veteran teachers can choose whether to enter the plan or not.

Nevertheless, all teachers in the plan will have to make higher contributions than before. Teachers who buy into the plan must work for the next five years and pay 11 percent of their paycheck each year, while teachers who were on the 5 percent plan must pay 11 percent annually for the next five years in order to retire, if their age plus years of service meet or exceed ninety. Previously, this number

was 100 (age plus years of service). Therefore, teachers who were on the 5 percent plan, but are now on the 11 percent plan, can retire if their age plus years of service equal ninety.

On June 22, 2000, the state of Massachusetts entered another chapter of history with the passage of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000, which provides for the following main components:

- Benefit Enhancement
- Maternity Leave Purchase
- Re-Employment after Retirement

Chapter 114 requires teachers who want to retire in June 2002 with twenty-five years of service to have put in thirty years of creditable service at the time of retirement in order to receive full benefits. Teachers can start to contribute the 11% on July 1, 2001; thereafter they will be able to make accelerated payments towards an early retirement under this RetirementPlus plan.

This new plan has been in the works for the past ten years by teachers' organizations and unions. Along with bringing in new teachers with more creative and innovative teaching methods, this plan will give to all teachers a fairer and more reasonable retirement plan. Other states, such as Connecticut and New Hampshire, have similar or enhanced plans that place more weight on years of service, rather than on age; they will allow teachers to retire after thirty to thirty-five years of service. The new RetirementPlus Bill will help Massachusetts match these standards.

For more information on RetirementPlus, visit the state's web site at <<http://www.state.ma.us/>>

The Johnny B. Interview

By John B. Greene, III
Layout Editor

In the Boston Sunday Globe, April 8th, the City Weekly section featured a picture of Sara Redd on the front page with the caption that indicated that she and her doubles partner, Jennifer Seide, are hoping to win another state title this season. The article, "A Spring Season Preview", included news about Latin's tennis teams, boys and girls. Concerning the team, the article stated, "The girls are led by sophomores Jennifer Seide and Sara Redd, who have won the state double title in each of the last two years. In fact, they haven't lost a single together".

1. What is the key to success to playing a doubles partners?
The key is communication and teamwork.

2. How did the two of you happen to team up as doubles partners?
Our real coach, Sidney Cooper believed we would work well together and it turns out we do.

3. How often do you practice together? Do you play singles against each other for practice? Do you (Jennifer/Sara) team up with another player for doubles practice against each other?
Both: We try to practice almost everyday. Occasionally, we play singles, but not for school. No, we don't team up with other players for doubles practice.

4. What exercises (e.g. running, weights, etc.) do you do through the year? Is it all tennis, or are there other sports or fitness workouts that help you on the tennis court?
Sara: *I lift in the fall and I run around J.P. Pond.*
Jen: *I swim and I also run around J.P. Pond.*

5. How did you happen to choose tennis as a sport?

Sara: *I started when I was little. At first it was just recreational and then it became serious.*
Jen: *I started playing when I was five or six. My brother played and it looked fun.*

6. Is there a professional (or amateur) tennis player whom you admire? What is it about her/him consider special?
Jen: *Mary Pierce because she made a comeback to win the French Open and she is happy with her life.*
Both: *Williams sisters because they represent for the black people.*

7. How many pairs of tennis shoes do you wear out in a year?
Sara: *4-5*
Jen: *4-6 pairs a year*

8. Are there lessons in tennis that help you handle school and other situations in life?
Both: Discipline, learn to balance your time.

9. Considering all the motion that's involved in the game of tennis, is physics a favorite subject?
Both: *We like it, but its not our favorite. The teachers are cool, yeah Mr. O!!*

10. Does tennis and school leave you time for anything else in life? What is your ideal vacation?
Both: *Not really*
Sara: *A hot place, the beach.*
Jen: *Parties with friends.*

11. Now that you've been in the Boston Sunday Globe, how does getting interviewed and published in the Argo compare? Did you get a lot of comments from friends about last Sunday's article? Did you have any choice in the pictures that were published?
Jen: *I think that being in any newspaper is an honor. Everyone saw the article which was really embarrassing because we didn't pick the pictures and they were horrible.*
Sara: *It's still cool, though the pictures were wack! Everyone knew about the article. It felt*

The Trojan War

By Elizabeth Johnson, II &
Becca Bor, II
Contributing Writers

Each year, one million teenagers get pregnant: One million girls have to face the reality of being responsible for the life of another. And yet consider how many of those pregnancies could have been prevented if the procreators had used a contraceptive.

Along with that immense number comes an even more frightening statistic: According to the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, each year 2.5 million teens are infected with sexually transmitted diseases(STDs). Many STDs have no cure, and treatment can be difficult and often lasts for the remainder of the infected person's life.

In addition, while contraceptives like birth control pills are effective in preventing pregnancy, they do not protect against STDs. The most effective contraceptive against both STDs and pregnancy is a condom.

Buying condoms can be embarrassing, inconvenient, and expensive. So it seems that the most logical way of making condoms readily available to teenagers is to have a supply of free condoms in the place they visit most often: school. This theory also assumes that teenagers could discreetly access the contraceptives: They would be conveniently placed in a private room, such as the bathrooms or the nurses' office, keeping students safe, healthy and not pregnant. The AIDS Action Committee of Boston provides free condoms to schools to help promote the practice of safe sex; it would require nothing

from our school, except perhaps a little understanding.

However, the Boston Public School System adheres to a "policy of abstinence." School nurses do not give out condoms; they are required to promote abstinence in lieu of safe sex. Critics decry the policy, claiming it encourages looking the other way, instead of dealing with the problems of teen pregnancy and STD infections. According to a youth risk behavior study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, about 50 percent of all teenagers are sexually active. No matter how much students may value the advice of their school nurses, the statistics show that they are equally likely to engage in sexual relations. The Boston Public School System effectively stymies the many possible alternative solutions.

Conservatives in the BPS predict that providing condoms to students will send the message that they condone having sexual intercourse during one's teenage years, and that sexual activity will increase. Cambridge Rindge and Latin, however, initiated a program in 1990 that made condoms available to its students. Sexual activity among the students has not increased since then; in fact, according to a study conducted by the Cambridge Health Alliance, it actually decreased slightly. However, the percentage of sexually active students who use condoms has increased to roughly 75 percent from the previous 50 percent. No numbers have been tallied for our school as of yet, but it would not be unreasonable to expect similar results if a free condom program were installed.

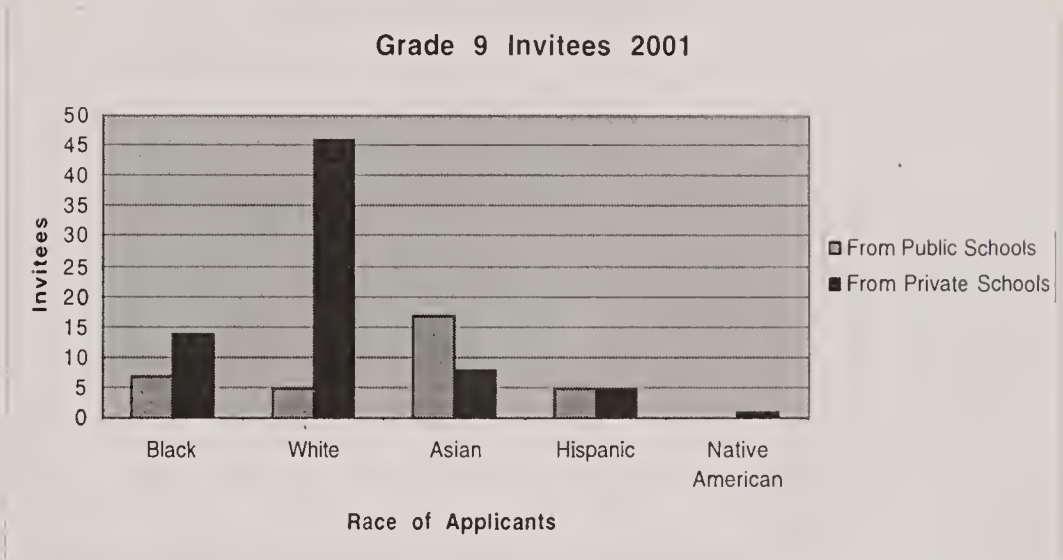
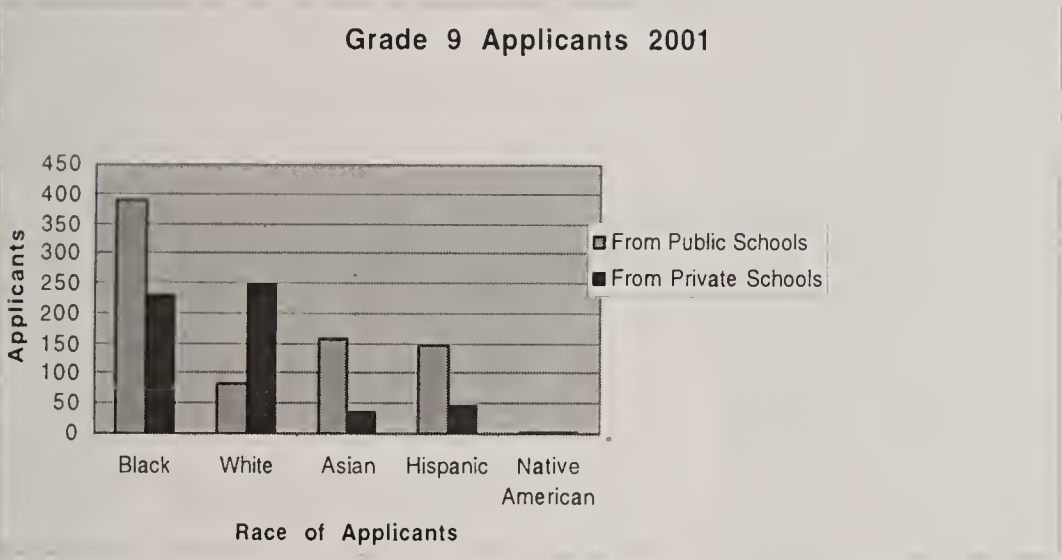
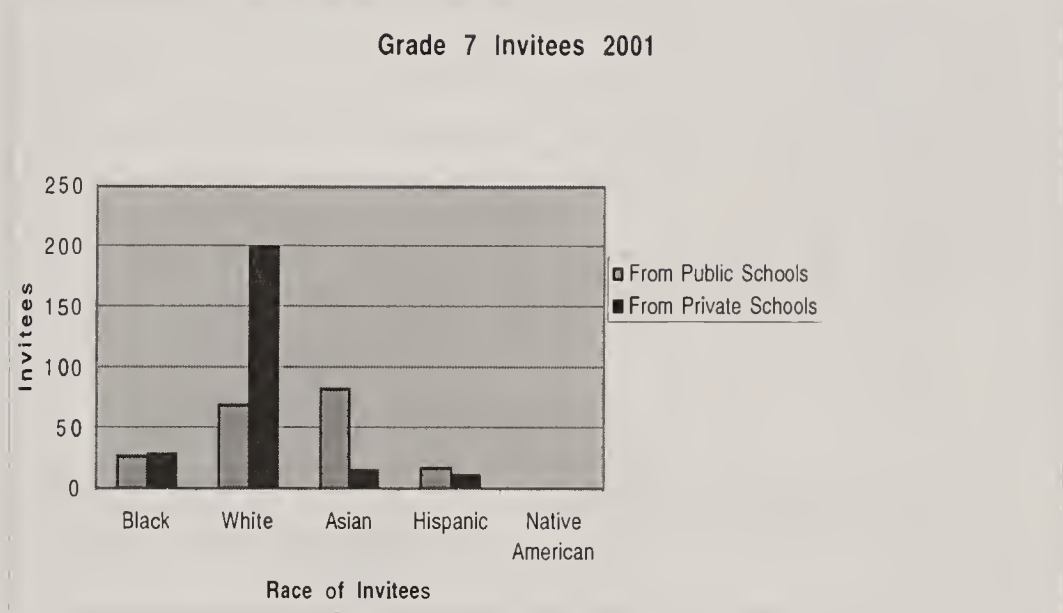
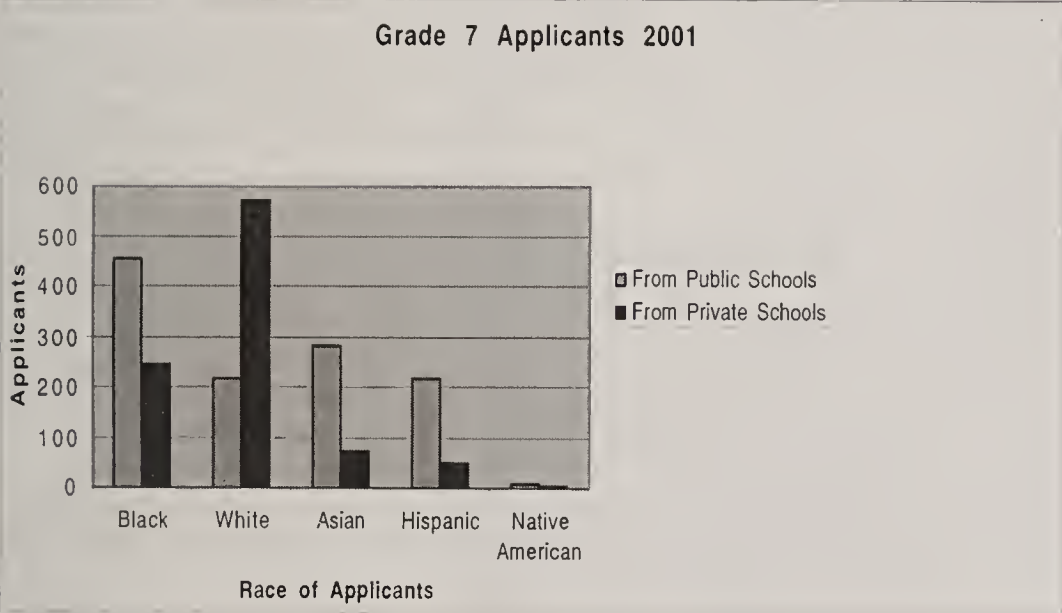
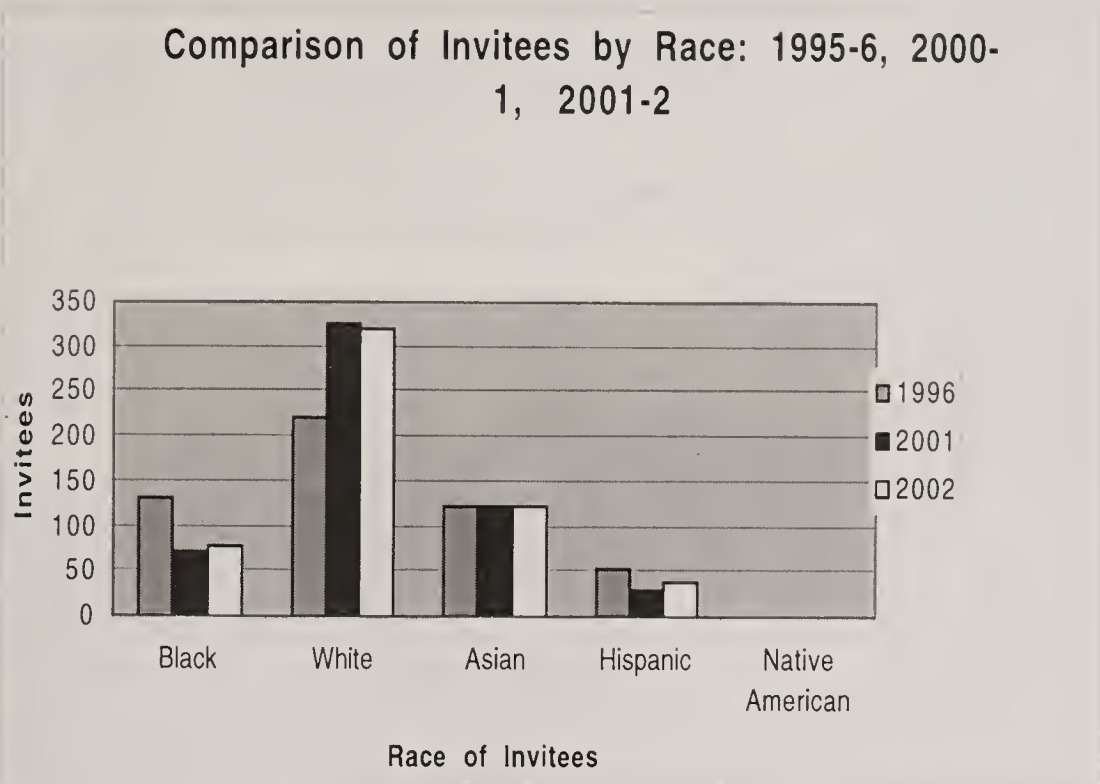
Activists Question Racial Disparities At BLS

(continued from page 1)

Mr. Fernandez, the adviser for TAG and the Young Leaders of Color (YLC), asserts that diversity and equity require the involvement of the whole community. “We can’t look at this as a problem. This an opportunity for change, and change is not a problem.” More importantly, diversity and equity require the willingness of the administration to work with the whole community. Last year, a broad spectrum of “stakeholders”-students, teachers, parents, community representatives, and school and city officials-convened at a Future Search conference to discuss the future of diversity at BLS, but the resulting action plans lost momentum. Some activists are less concerned

with who gets in and more concerned with who leaves. Why do so many students at Boston Latin leave or drop out before graduation? Do some groups of students feel less supported than others? These are questions some parents hope to answer with the help of a survey of all exiting students.

Gail Harris, a BPS teacher and parent of two at BLS who is active on the School Site Council and Black Parents Association, says the real issue is supporting and retaining students once they get there. “Supposedly, we send our best and brightest to Latin School. Students enter as beams of light, but for many, by the time they leave, their lights are very dim.” She believes that supporting students goes beyond the issue of race. “If only 12 percent [of those who get in] are black,” says Harris, “I want that 12 percent to graduate.”



Our Rights as Teenage Workers

By James Duffy, II
Contributing Writer

Whether you work at McDonald’s, the Gap, or a Kathie Lee Gifford sweatshop, you should know your rights as a teenage worker. Over 80% of teenagers have had a job by the time they graduate from high school, says the Massachusetts Department of Health, and nearly 200,000 teens in the U.S. are injured on the job every year. This fact seems quite ridiculous, and many of these injuries could have been prevented, had many teenager workers known their rights. Massachusetts and federal child labor laws are in place to protect you on the job and to make sure that work does not interfere with your education. However, many workers do not know their rights.

First of all, teenagers are not allowed to do many types of jobs. For example, they are not allowed to do work that exposes us to radioactive substances. Therefore, if you feel that third eye in the middle of your forehead is becoming a bit of a bother, not to mention your sixth finger, there is no cause for worry; just stop working and sue the pants off the

employer. Also teenagers are not allowed to handle, serve, or sell alcoholic beverages. In addition, teens cannot drive a vehicle or forklift. Hence, if you are operating a vehicle with destructive powers, and you don’t even know how to switch lanes on the highway, you probably shouldn’t be working. There are many examples of work we cannot do, but the reason we cannot do these jobs is common sense. Imagine a fifteen-year-old kid working in a construction site or a sixteen-year-old using buffing equipment. It’s not so much the stringent work, but more the inhaling.

Also, we are only allowed to work a certain amount of hours. Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds may work up to a maximum of forty hours a week, nine hours a day, and six days a week whether school is in session or not. Fourteen- and fifteen-year olds may only work eighteen hours a week, three hours a day on school days, and eight hours a day on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and six days a week when school is in session and forty hours a week, eight hours a day, and six days a week when school is not in session. Remember, although you may work the maximum hours, it does not mean you have too. If you are too tired to go to school or to have a social life, and the amount of coffee you drink makes you look like a Japanimation character, you should probably take a break.

Also, it is important to be aware of hazards in the workplace and to speak up when you have a concern. Examples of workplace hazards are: slippery floors, hot surfaces, chemicals, noise, un-guarded machinery, knives, tools and equipment, repetitive work, heavy lifting, and stress. Thank God for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health! When you get hurt, you should tell your employer as quickly as possible about your injury and get medical treatment; as opposed to standing in front of the meat grinder that had just taken your hand with a puzzled look, wondering, “What should I do?” while you slowly bleed to death.

Know your rights. Comply with workplace safety rules and instructions, use safety equipment and protective clothing, keep work areas clean and neat, know what to do in an emergency, report any health hazard to your supervisor, and use your head. If you feel any danger to your own safety, or any type of unfair discrimination, protect your well-being, and know your rights. Knowledge is the greatest weapon. The next time a wrecking ball sweeps you off your feet, or you realize that you’re working 24 hours a day making clothes in an unsanitary room, with a 100 people, and a picture of Kathie Lee Gifford with a hallow over her head is the only thing hanging on the wall, don’t say I didn’t warn you.

.Com Debating

BY REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
Co-Editor In Chief

Ever wondered what the parents of Boston Latin students think about issues such as spanking, rectoscopes, and ISEE cheating? On the BLS Listserv, parents, teachers and students bat around issues like these every day, stirring up controversy and scandal when life gets a little too boring.

About three years ago, Phil Degnon organized the Listserv, hoping to provide a forum for discussion in the BLS community and improve communication among parents, students, faculty and administration. Well, it does that, and sometimes real issues are discussed, but the term “excess leisure time” seems to have been coined for the denizens of BLSP. Senior Andy Barr, an occasional contributor to the list, said, “You know, it’s like smoking. I try to stop reading the e-mail, but then someone makes an egregious comment about double lab periods or something and, BOOM, it’s an hour later and I haven’t done any homework.”

Homework is just one of the many topics covered on the list. Parents frequently write in to verify or discuss issues that come home with students, or to ask questions about school events or policies.

The BLSP subculture is as rich and varied as the fertilizer many people think its participants are full of. Senior parent Fred deBros is one of the more colorful characters, commenting, while “most people think their intellect is very thick ... more often it is thinner than their mousepads” – strong words from the man who brought the term *doghouse* to the list, in reference to the place to which he is frequently “banished” because of controversial comments. As he put it, “People who live in glass houses better change in the basement.”

To join the Listserv and get in on the inside jokes, e-mail Frank Willison at willison@world.std.com. As junior parent Vance Koven put it, “the more people who join, the more effective it will be.”

Synaesthetic Slamming

BY ANITA YIP, III & HANA YOO, III
Copy Editor & Editorial Board Associate

“drop-box girl wears an orange sweater in july”
but the gun continues to fire
seemingly without me
and the beeps resound
relentless and existential
through the shelves

Adam Rubinstein, 18
Weston, MA

Like senior Adam Rubinstein from Rivers High School, teens all over the country have found an outlet for expressing their opinions and emotions: poetry slams. They take up their pens and let their talent spill forth onto that dull blank piece of paper. They hurl words onto it as if nothing could stop them from pouring out every inch of their hearts and souls. For many teens, poetry opens up new worlds.

Formerly, adults imparting their impassioned words to the world dominated poetry slams. Nowadays, teens are becoming more involved in poetry slams. They are speaking up; they are more open about sharing their muse-inspired work with others. They are the next generation of writers who have a voice and the right to be heard.

Teens go to poetry slams for a variety of reasons. Some teens claim that they feel a surge of adrenaline when they are performing their work. Others look forward to the prospect of this experience. Performing is an empowering, wonderful, and exciting experience, even for those who are not “poets” or “artsy” types. After all, everyone has opinions, or at least something to offer or share.

In a poetry slam, students competing in groups or individually read aloud their works for the judges and are scored based on their poise, volume, diction, expression, and how well their message is conveyed. Sophomores Anita Yip and Hana Yoo went to the poetry slam held at Rockland High School with Susan Manning, publisher of the magazine *Positive Teens*, which features teens’ work and aims to emphasize the positive qualities of today’s teens. They met many fellow poets, and even made it into the Top 10.

If you have a poem that you want to share, or if you want to hear some of these talented poets, make space in your schedule to attend an upcoming poetry slam which will be held at the Boston Public Library. For more information, contact Anita Yip (220) or Hana Yoo (231).

Ranking Class Rank

BY BURT CARTER, V
Staff Writer

The ongoing battle between class rank and grade point average (GPA) affects everyone in the school. Class rank is determined by an accumulation of points based on final grades and course factors. Students are ranked four times: at the end of sophomore year, the end of junior year, midway through senior year, and the end of senior year with junior and senior grades weighing more heavily. Advanced Placement and Honors classes count more than regular classes in the ranking system.

Several proposals advocating for changes to the system have been presented to the School Site Council. According to Mr. Montague, director of the guidance department, the proposals will be presented to the Faculty

Facilitas,
Expletum,
Addictioque

BY JIE SONG, II
Staff Writer

Facilitas (ease), *expletum* (fulfillment), *addictioque* (not addiction, but award). Though these are not what the letters FEA stand for, they are nevertheless qualities that embody the Future Educators of America.

A small club of less than 20 people, including the advisor, Mr. Shluzas, the FEA is one of those inconspicuous clubs that hold sessions on quiet afternoons. Walking by the FEA meeting room, one can easily get the impression that Mr. Shluzas is giving after-school support to a few chemistry students. This, however, is far from the fact. The FEA is an national organization created to expand the interests of those who find service a virtue and who express a desire to become involved in the education field. Among all the clubs of Boston Latin School, the Future Educators of America is one of the most altruistic ones, for unlike sports teams that compete for glory and math teams that compete for trophies, the FEA dedicates itself to service for others, not for itself.

Though relatively small in size, this club often engages in such massive tasks of service as finding and creating suitable presents for every single teacher and staff member on the annual Teachers’ Appreciation Day. In the 1999-2000 school year, for instance, the club created some 180 clipboard, complete with a laminated card on which the teacher’s name, an appraisal, and a description of the FEA is written. This task, completed by fewer than 15 students, took many weeks in its process, but the students’ toils were not in vain, for the boards brought many smiles and thanks on Teacher’s Appreciation Day.

Such acts of selfless service are an indispensable part for an experience of the expletum among the club members. This sense of fulfillment is true in both physical and emotional aspects. Since Mr. Shluzas understands that all students at BLS undergo a stressful and tolling day, he takes the task of preparing food during every meeting of the FEA. Therefore, quite simply put, everyone gets fed. But satisfaction of the stomach comes far from the sense of success that one obtains when having the opportunity to see the happiness his or her work has brought. Indeed, every member of the FEA finds fulfillment in service, a sense of fulfillment that gives one joy and educates one in the values and integrities of social service.

This fulfilling experience is, of course, only a small part of the award, the FEA offers. Besides giving every member a chance of building a personal portfolio, an important asset in any college or job interview, the FEA contains many opportunities of scholarships and awarding experiences. One may apply, for instance, for an academic scholarship in the field of education. Also, throughout the year, there are opportunities to visit colleges and universities. Last year, for example, the FEA visited the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and recently, a few members were given the chance to visit Wheelock College. These are only a few examples of how FEA members benefit in taking part in educational and awarding experiences.

At this point, the reader might get the impression that this article is an advertisement, and indeed in some aspects it is. But, however advertisingly oriented, this article does not contain any intent to overwhelm the reader with persuasion. For, in fact, to those who are already in the club, this is a homage, and to those who are ignorant of its existence, this is a portrait.

Senate, School Parent Council, Student Council, and the Instructional Leadership Team. The School Site Council includes teachers Mr. Aversa, Ms. Greaves, Mr. Harper, Dr. Neary, Ms. Brun, and Ms. LeDang, junior Andrew Binns, parents, and Headmaster Kelley. The first proposal, which has already been approved, is the addition of a cumulative GPA to the class rank that is reported on the transcript sent to colleges. Starting with the Class of 2002, GPA will be included on the transcript. The second proposal, which is being discussed, is the elimination of class rank and calculation of GPA beginning in the ninth grade. The question now becomes, what should be done about class rank?

Class rank has always been a tradition at BLS, and, although class rank is highly disputed, it has its advantages. With the class rank system, colleges can make a quick comparison of students’ academic standings if they are from the same school. Many famous people, such as Sumner Redstone, former valedictorian at BLS and current President of Viacom, have graduated under the ranking process. If there is no class rank, how would a valedictorian be chosen? Prize Night at BLS is a night in June when scholarships and prizes are given out to graduating seniors. Many of these prizes are based on rank. Without class rank how could this be done? How would the Franklin Scholars (the top seven students in the senior class) be chosen? Without rank, there will be many changes.

Of course, class rank has a downside as well. With class rank in our school, no student can succeed without bringing someone else down. Students must compete among their friends, and some friendships have even been broken because of this competition. The stress of rank adds to the stress of schoolwork. When colleges look at rank, they just see numbers. They do not know about the hard work of BLS students. At BLS, a student is competing with students as smart, talented, and gifted as they. Using the GPA system, a student will not compete with his best friend, that student will compete with himself. GPA will reduce the stress level that students normally have to endure.

The Student Council, headed by Michelle Metallidis, encourages the proposals for change from class rank to the GPA system. Some members of Student Council believe that class rank reported on transcripts should be optional. Michelle also supports the GPA system and stands by the aforementioned reasons. Mr. Montague believes that “class rank serves those near the top of the class very well. However, since our student body is so strong, those in the middle or below are not as well served.” Ultimately the controversy over class rank and GPA will be resolved.

Forensics Battles Heat Up

BY STEPHEN DEWEY, III
Contributing Writer

The forensics team has been growing in strength since the last issue of the Argo was published. Under the leadership of our coach, Lauren McDonough (also coach of the Mock Trial team), our debaters are preparing to enter our first tournament since re-inception. This particular tournament will take place against Needham High School’s novices, and will serve as a warm up/kick off event. We expect that our team will perform well against these novices, and we hope to win. The topic in use until the end of April is that of the rights of the journalism conglomerate in covering political campaigns. The literal resolution? Resolved: That the public’s right to know ought to be valued above the right to privacy of candidates for public office. Our speech competitors have accomplished quite a lot over the past month. Although they have not registered for any tournaments this year, they had an impressive presence in the 4th public declamations of the year, racking up 3 declaimers, including 4th place competitor Faith Imafidon. If you would like to support the forensics team, look for our bake sales, soon to come to the front lobby, or come watch us compete.

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Forum

Rose Costello  Becca Tumposky

Wall of Shame: Cool or Lame?

BY ROSE COSTELLO, I
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

In late March, one solitary page appeared on the wall outside of room 101. It was hardly noticeable: a single sheet of paper, filled with small text, slightly higher than normal eye-level. Soon, it was joined by two or three other sheets. Later that week, all of the pages mysteriously disappeared.

Last year, the class of 2000 started what is known to many as “The Wall of Shame.” Seniors got the idea from an article in the Boston Globe about a similar wall at Milton Academy. Any student who wants to, can hang his or her college rejection letters on The Wall. This is a way for seniors to vent their frustration and disappointment with the college process. “It’s a kind of catharsis,” says Doug Le, a participating senior.

The purpose of Boston Latin School is to prepare young people for college. This goal, however, often overshadows meeting the emotional needs of the students. Late-March and early-April can be a very trying time for seniors. It’s easy to forget that one is not alone; other people are going through the same things, sometimes even with the same school. A public display like The Wall makes the healing process a communal one.

This year, the school administration took a hard stand against the Wall of Shame. When letters first started to appear in the hallway, Ms. Kelley had them removed, despite the fact that last year’s Wall was left untouched. She claims that underclassmen are discouraged by the Wall of Shame; they see the letters and think that they too will not get into the schools on The Wall. But younger students I’ve talked to seem to be singing a different tune. “I don’t think The Wall is a bad thing,” Mimi Lai (II) says, “It’s realistic. Not every letter from a college is going to be an acceptance.”

I do not see the point of Ms. Kelley’s action. The senior class has asked for many things this year: dances, senior lounge, open campus and parking—all of these have been denied. Perhaps the administration should choose its battles. The Wall of Shame does not break any state regulations; it does not provide a potential for danger, and it will come at no extra cost to the school. A little flexibility goes a long way sometimes.

Furthermore, how many things have brought students together like this? With all the cliques and petty arguments that often divide the student body, how could anyone condemn a unifying force like this one on the grounds that it’s “too negative?” “It shows school spirit,” says Andrew Barr (I). “Not so much in the sense of supporting your school as an institution but more so in strengthening the sense of community among students that makes the school great.”

Although The Wall has since returned to its rightful place across from room 102 and has reached the impressive size of sixty-nine letters, the senior class remains sore about this attempted infringement on its healing process. The suggestion of a “Wall of Fame” to counteract its negativity has received a lukewarm response. “The only purpose it could serve is to bolster the ego of the administration,” Chris Coletta (I) says of the second wall.

I agree; the Wall of Shame is intended to help, to heal, and to make rejection “okay.” A “Wall of Fame” would be yet another thing to brag about. In case you didn’t hear us the first time, “Sumus Primi.”

Rose Costello is the editor of the Argo’s Editorial Page and is noted for her ability to simultaneously chew gum, manipulate the laws of physics, and tolerate Diego. Rose looks incredibly sexy in pink, and reminds Jonah of a dandelion. You might know her as “Slater Girlfriend #47” on “Saved By the Bell” (Episode #177).

BY REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Instead of voicing my own opinion on the “Wall of Shame,” I decided to interview a more militant wall-opposer, senior Ashley Britton.

Ashley identified several problems with the wall. For starters, the wall encourages an environment of negativity in the school community toward both the college process and the administration. “People get so upset when they get rejected from a college that they feel the need for a scapegoat; often they choose the faculty and administration.” According to Ashley, some seniors were so disillusioned about their rejections last year that they wanted to post them up just to spite the teachers whom they felt were indirectly responsible for them.

When questioned as to whether perhaps the anger of these students

was more directed to the message they had been receiving for the last six years, Ashley responded, “You are here to get into college. I just came here to go to high school. There is way too much emphasis at Boston Latin on the fact that we are Boston Latin. Simply attending this school is not going to get you into college; people act entitled as if they are paying for some \$26,000 private school name so that they can get accepted to another fancy \$26,000 college.” So essentially, students have no right to be bitter toward BLS about their college rejections, and pasting them up on a wall is not going to arouse sympathy or remorse from the faculty or the administration.

Some seniors see The Wall as not a way to arouse sympathy, but as a means of uniting the senior class. After all, almost all of us are getting rejection letters, so why not make it a bonding experience? Ashley replied that there are other more positive ways to unite; publicizing our rejections is just depressing. “Besides,” she added, “only having a Wall of Shame is so negative. Why not post our acceptances as well? We should not just show one side of the story. People dwell on their ‘failures’ too much.”

One concern with a “Wall of Fame” is that it would spark envy, and people would be reluctant to “boast.” To that, Ashley retorted, “You don’t get looked down upon for being smart here; this school is full of talented intelligent students. If someone gets accepted to an Ivy League, he or she has obviously worked for it and deserves to be congratulated. Also, I am sure that a ‘Wall of Fame’ would numerically outdo the ‘Wall of Shame’ easily.”

Another gripe she had with The Wall was that the majority of the rejection letters were from schools like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Duke, etc. Many of the people who got rejected from schools like these got accepted to other equivalent brand name schools; in her opinion, The Wall caters toward students who need not be concerned about college.

While Ashley’s opinion seems to be less popular, it is important to keep in mind that not everyone sees the validity or humor in a “Wall of Shame.” Each morning as more and more rejections are posted on the wall, there are still those students who find it a destructive waste of time.

Rebecca Tumposky is the Co-Dictator of the Argo and also the fourth-largest chemical corporation operating in the Western Hemisphere today. She is awfully sexy in blue and reminds Jonah of a sunflower. You might know her as “Slater Girlfriend #32” on Saved by the Bell (Episode #152).

Forum Question

BLS is widely considered one of the best public schools in the country. But we all have things that we do not like about our school, whether it is certain rules and requirements or certain physical deformities. The Argo asked a randomly selected cross section of Allukians and other Latin students what they most wanted to change about their school.



“I would like for the teachers to be generally more responsive to the needs of the students.”
—Jason Allukian, I

“There should be more emphasis on helping struggling students.”
—Jenny French-Allukian, II



“I would change everything!”
Alexandra Allukian, III

“If I could change one thing about Latin, I would not want to take Latin anymore. It’s a dead language, and has no use.”
—Maria Terova-Allukian, IV



“I wish that they would sell better food in the cafeteria.”
—Nathan Allukian, V

“If I could change one thing about Latin, I would get rid of all of the old teachers. They need to go.”
—Lani Skipper-Allukian, VI



Progress on Environment Not Enough

By Alison Damaskos, II
Contributing Writer

A short time ago, it seemed as though things were looking up; with the introduction of the Honda *Insight* and the Toyota *Prius* to the American automobile market this fall, it appeared that America was finally developing an environmental conscience. The remarkable numbers achieved by these new fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles (52 miles to a gallon in the city, 45 miles on the highway) created an encouraging buzz that seemed to indicate that these cars could usher in a new era of environmental awareness. Perhaps we could stop looking for new places to drill for oil; perhaps we could finally turn our minds from consumption to conservation. This cheery news was followed by yet another environmental victory: President Clinton’s late-term order prohibiting logging, mining, and road construction on more than 50 million acres of national forest land.

As our country begins a new millennium under the George W. Bush administration, however, many new decisions regarding environmental policy will be made. We have a president who is long on campaign debts and party promises and short on environmental conscience. As governor of Texas, Bush allowed his state to plunge to the very bottom of the pollution index of states. With the privatization of pollution cleanup and the grandfathering of several high output industrial stacks, Bush failed to implement any positive environmental policy in Texas. During the presidential campaign, warning signs about Bush’s environmental principles came early; to gain support in certain quarters, Bush made some disturbing promises including the idea of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska to oil drilling. Home to caribou, wolves, and three different species

of bear, as well as thousands of birds and Native Americans that hunt the animals, the refuge is an untouched sanctuary, an enormous expanse of forest and plains. Unfortunately, it is also resting above nearly twelve billion barrels of untapped crude oil. For the last eight years, Clinton persistently vetoed every previously attempted legislation designed to open up the ANWR to drilling in order to protect this land and its precious resources—flora, fauna, and oil—for the future. With the changing of the guard, it is unlikely that conservation is a high priority on any Washington agenda; consumption of nature is the quicker fix.

Now there is an energy crisis throughout California, the result of compounded years of poor decision-making. In this consumer-driven society, the threat of being without power, without electricity for consumption, is alarming. Yes, Alaska is far away, and yes, drilling for oil would produce immediate results in terms of creating more power and bringing down prices. If we allow such fear to influence the decisions of our elected officials regarding Alaska, however, such gratification would be short-lived. Taking and taking comes at a high price, as we will undoubtedly discover for ourselves if drilling begins in the ANWR. We should not place the burden for poor decision-making on the creatures and plants of a pristine ecosystem in order to yield immediate benefits for our wallets. The answer does not lie in Alaska, it lies here with us; it lies in both personal responsibility and collective effort.

Despite the overwhelming scientific data, the forty-third president of the United States is “not sure” if global warming truly exists. Now, with the confirmation of Gale Norton as Secretary of the Interior, the wrong answers to pollution and environmental problems will continue to be implemented, because the wrong questions about pollution

and the environment have been asked—if they have been asked at all. Instead of politicians asking where they can find more resources to utilize, we, their constituents, should ask them how we can use less and conserve more. Presently, politicians are asking where they can dig another hole, where they can burn another forest. We should demand that the highly touted scientific prowess of our nation be drawn upon and that technology be used to make such violations unnecessary.

Recently, we approached ecological catastrophe when oil was *accidentally* spilled on the Galapagos Islands, harming hundreds of land and sea creatures. The Galapagos Islands are home to an incredible wealth of rare species as well as the very heart of Darwinism. By drilling in the ANWR, we would be *deliberately* choosing to wreak havoc on the ecosystem.

A couple of weeks ago, both the common folk and corporations offered a twelve cannon salute to Presidents’ Day in a traditionally American way: by spending money. Among the many advertisements hurrying to capitalize on the patriotic spending frenzy, one jingle stood out from the rest: “Ah, President’s Day: a time to ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your wallet.” Perhaps it’s not as resoundingly nationalistic as John F. Kennedy’s original phrasing, but even this commercial, a car ad, reflects an American mentality where the checkbook is first and all other considerations secondary. Although America, as a nation, has yet to realize it, making irreversible and consequential decisions such as drilling in protected conservation land will have devastating results. Right now, ours is a consumer-driven society. But what happens when we have nothing left to consume, and in the process have also destroyed and violated resources to such a degree that there is no hope of recovery in the future?

Black And White And Red All Over

By Jonah Birch, I
Forum Editor

Martin Luther King Jr. has a day. Malcolm X has a postage stamp. You might be able to find a few sentences in your U.S. History text book about W.E.B. Du Bois, Rosa Parks, and maybe even Adam Clayton Powell. Americans—the press, the politicians, liberals and conservatives—have seemingly accepted the civil rights movement and what it stood for. Or at least this is the case on the surface.

Certainly, American public opinion has accepted certain parts of the civil rights and minority rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s; we like to celebrate the Birmingham bus boycott; we like the Civil and Voting Rights Acts. But the civil rights movement was about more than just these limited goals. It was also about the fight for economic justice and social equality for blacks and other minority groups. This aspect of the movement has been completely ignored.

Americans like to think that the objectives of the civil rights movement have been achieved. They feel proud of their country for achieving what many whites see as basic political equality. But this view ignores much of what civil rights leaders really did. The civil rights movement was as much an economic movement as it was a political movement. It had a large contingent of leaders who were attacking not just institutional racism but also economic inequality, economic imperialism, and in many cases, capitalism itself. Of course these issues remain with us today—the gap in income in America between blacks and whites has grown throughout the 1990s, new technologies and economic globalization have spread the tentacles of capitalistic exploitation even further throughout the world, and worldwide poverty has not diminished at all during the decades since the 1960s (one sixth of the people on the planet lives on less than a dollar a day, half of the population lives on less than three dollars a day).

However, the fight of civil rights leaders against these issues is ignored, and instead, we celebrate just a few leaders neutered of their explosive economic attacks. (No one ever talks about Martin Luther King Jr.’s fight for full employment, or his support for organized labor in the years following 1965.) The Black Panther Party and other militant groups of the late 1960s are ignored. At the same time there is a large description in your U.S. History text book of Marcus Garvey, an earlier militant African-American leader. The difference between the two is that Garvey espoused separatist and segregationist racial views with basically a conservative economic message, while the Black Panthers were qualified integrationists whose militancy was as much economic (they were allied with

Who’s Mad Now?

By Julianna Brody-Fialkin, II
Contributing Writer

Recently, hundreds of sheep have been diagnosed with Mad Cow Disease right here in our own United States of America. Now, there is no need to panic, folks, the situation is under control. The sheep and cattle with signs of this terrible disease have been confiscated and brought to a laboratory to be tested. If any strains of the disease are found to be infecting any of them, strong precautionary measures will be taken: the whole herd will be destroyed.

Using this as an example, I advise that the same actions be taken with all sick creatures, especially those that come into close contact with humans: for example, other humans. There were 234 sheep seized from one farm in Vermont. Why not all of them? There must be thousands of humans walking around, contaminating all of us, and nothing is done. Why are they not taken away and tested? Do you want to expose your young children or old, feeble parents to such a risk?

When questioned, the owner of the sheep in Vermont stated that the ailment has been proven not to be transmittable to people through dairy products, which was

the main purpose for raising these sheep. No other animals, sheep or otherwise, have caught the virus from the impounded livestock. Moreover, the tests that confirmed the presence of illness in the animals were experimental and may or may not be trusted. The owner said that his animals were hurting no one and that if they were taken away he would have no income, since he was not being reimbursed. But what does a simple farmer know? He has only raised animals for most of his life. The government knows best. They know that there might possibly be a threat.

So, one can see how easily we deceive ourselves into thinking that all is calm and right, when the sheep or person next to us may in fact have a contagious disease. I say something must be done. Take away all those that might perhaps have a chance of hurting us. Do trustworthy tests afterwards. In fact if there was no danger, then no one was seriously hurt, except those few that didn’t make it out from the investigation, and those that had to sell their farms because without livestock they could not pay their mortgage. Yet this is a small price to pay for our important safety. Instead of only sequestering really sick animals (and hopefully people), and doing credible tests before jumping to conclusions, dispose of all threats before they even present themselves.

Students for a Democratic Society and other radical groups) as it was racial. The civil rights movement is shown as a purely political movement, when it was much more than that.

Perhaps the most egregious piece of historical revisionism is the treatment of W.E.B. Du Bois, the most famous African-American leader of the first half of the twentieth century. Du Bois, sociologist, civil rights leader (founder of the NAACP), and journalist (editor of *The Crises* for the first twenty years of its existence) has been completely ignored by the modern American press. The reason for this is easily identifiable—he was a socialist and later a communist. Du Bois saw the civil rights movement as international and economic. He organized numerous Pan-African congresses, and saw racism as directly tied to the international exploitation of indigenous people by Europeans, and subsequently worked hard against that. He, along with fellow civil rights leader Paul Robeson, supported the Soviet Union throughout the 1930s, 40s, 50s, and early 60s. Most of the American public knows nothing of this. Indeed, a look at your U.S. History text book will tell you only that he fought for access to mainstream America for the “‘talented tenth’ of the black community.” This is certainly what Du Bois fought for when he was young, just after the turn of the century. But Du Bois worked and wrote for a long time after that, until his death in 1963. By the 1930s, he had rejected this elitist view of civil rights, seeing it now as a problem mainly of exploitation of the lower classes.

But of course, neither the U.S. History text book

nor the mainstream media will talk about this. The question is, why? Why has mainstream America accepted the political aspects of the civil rights movement while rejecting its social and economic criticisms? Even Strom Thurmond, a 98-year-old senator from South Carolina, who ran for president in 1948 on an independent segregationist platform, cannot now, in this atmosphere, criticize Martin Luther King Jr. (whom he accused, at the time, of being a communist spy). The political platform is not nearly as dangerous to America as the economic platform. Americans think that it is okay for African-Americans to vote. But to encourage the peoples of Africa, Asia, and South America to reject U.S. economic domination is simply unacceptable. That is why the more mundane aspects of Martin Luther King Jr.’s career are celebrated, while his later attempts to achieve economic equality are ignored; why the Black Panthers, a large, powerful organization are overlooked; and why W.E.B. Du Bois’ early, elitist beliefs are presented, while his development into a leftist is ignored. The economic gap between whites and blacks in America remains large. The economic exploitation of people around the world continues. But the fight against this by civil rights leaders has been removed from the popular consciousness by the mainstream press and politicians. To ignore such a large part of the message of civil rights leaders is to ignore what those leaders truly stood for. If we are to celebrate the civil rights movement, we must celebrate the whole movement, not just those parts of it that appeal to our collective sensibilities as Americans.

The SAT: + or -?

By **SPENCER C. SLEEPER, II**
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Many BLS juniors have recently finished taking the Princeton Review course and either have already taken the SAT, or will be taking it later in the year. However, one may ask, “What is so important about the SAT?”

All of us, especially the juniors and seniors, have heard an earful about the SAT. It is impossible not to pay attention to the supposed importance of SAT scores, which has led us to believe that if a student does well and achieves a high score, he is more likely to be admitted to an elite Ivy League school.

The SAT (originally referred to as the Scholastic Assessment Test, later as the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and now simply as the SAT) was created in the 1920s and was first used experimentally for military recruitment. The “father” of the SAT, Carl Brigham, a professor of psychology at Princeton University, created the SAT and marketed it to various schools, including military academies and some of the Ivy League schools. Harvard soon adopted the SAT for use as the Harvard Scholarship Test. Afterwards, the test became even more widely used as a scholarship test for all Ivy League schools.

It seems that our society is obsessed with the SAT. Annually over two million high school students take the SAT and the number is growing rapidly each year. Richard Atkinson, distinguished visiting scholar at the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and president of the University of California at Berkeley, was horrified by a visit to his 12-year-old granddaughter’s preparatory school. He says that she and her classmates “spend hours each month preparing for the SAT.” Dr. Atkinson continues to say that there is a “growing number of parents pouring thousands of dollars into prep programs (Last year alone, students in the United States paid more than \$100 million for coaching) and some parents even shop around for psychologists to certify that their kids are disabled so that they get extra test-taking time.”

It has been widely publicized that students who take prep courses can raise their score by more than 100 points. However, such a course costs, on average, \$800 to \$900, or even more. Programs range from after school classes in the high school cafeteria to high priced one-on-one tutors, some charging as much as \$500 per hour. Other published studies show that students who can afford coaching, and who come from wealthy suburban schools, generally score higher than those from poor, urban, public schools. Also, some suggest that the SAT favors those whose parents attended college over those who did not.

Most of the students at Boston Latin School work extremely hard to achieve their goals. The majority of juniors spend hours every week on a rigorous work load from the Princeton Review program, besides attending school all day and doing piles of homework for every subject.

Why is there such a heavy weight placed on SAT scores? Aren’t transcripts, grade point averages (GPA), recommendation letters, class rank, AP exams, and application essays good enough already?

The SAT is an example of a business enterprise used by the ETS/College Board, just like the commercial test-prep classes. Even the College Board sells its own test-prep materials—the Princeton Review and Kaplan Educational Center are not the only test-prep companies in the United States.

Presently about 280 four-year colleges and universities across the country make the SAT optional or do not even use SAT scores to make admissions decisions for their incoming freshman class. Many schools have “de-emphasized” the SAT in more subtle ways by weighing other factors more heavily, and they have come to the conclusion that colleges have attracted more minority students by not using SAT scores. These students often have a higher academic survival rate than some of their counterparts.

Students soon will have something else to worry about. The ETS is considering introducing socioeconomic factors into the SAT scoring system, which would supposedly help minority groups, and scores would be adjusted for students based on their background. It seems to be a noble proposition, but really, would this be any better? Well, it means students have a lot more work to deal with and less time on their hands, more pressure to cope with and less concentration on their tests.

Jane Brown, vice-president for enrollment and college relations at the prestigious 164-year-old Mount Holyoke College, has this to say: “We concluded that the SAT was just a blunt instrument which doesn’t help us cut to the core of who the student is.”

Clearly, the SAT system is unfair to students. The time and energy that we put into SAT prep courses surely could be put to better use for doing well in class. And the money we pour into getting higher SAT scores could certainly be used for tuition and other college-related expenses.

By **DAVID PAQUET-WHALL, I**
ASSISTANT GRAPHIC ARTS EDITOR

Of all the hotly debated political disputes in our country, the issue of the death penalty is of the first order; and just as soon as one thinks the topic has faded from the public eye, it returns and succeeds in igniting passions all over again. It was the theme of a major scuffle on Beacon Hill in 1997, with the brutal rape and murder of ten-year-old Jeffrey Curley. The opposing sides were so at odds that it came to a 50-50 tie and hence did not pass. The idea again skulked away and has laid dormant since. However, as incidences of brutality have become more common it has re-emerged. In Wakefield, Michael McDermott savagely butchered seven people. On the national scene there is the expected May execution of Timothy McVeigh, convicted of the Oklahoma City Bombing. This escalation of debate has been facilitated by the recent election of that trigger-happy yokel to the presidency. To further dramatize the whole situation, McVeigh wants his execution to be televised, in an attempt to show the nation the barbarous nature of the U.S. government.

As of late, I have been torn on this particular issue. I used to be a die-hard death penalty activist, but over the recent years my determination has faltered. In many cases, including all the ones mentioned above, I would have had the assailants put to death on the spot if I could; such people, I believe, have lost the right to live. In my opinion, which may be very controversial, some of these people deserve slow, painful deaths, but such inhumane practices would never be accepted.

In my discussions with other people I have had all the classic lines hurled at me. I think my favorite is “killing someone else won’t bring the victim back.” Obviously, that is not the objective of any person who advocates for the death penalty. The point of the death penalty is revenge, safety for our society, and even justice, although this is hard to accept for some people. I feel that in order to look at the death penalty truly, one must make it personal. If someone were to kill my brothers, my parents, my friends, how would I then feel about the death penalty? Although there is no just or fair way to inflict the pain on the person that took my loved ones from me, the closest thing in my mind would be to have them killed. That would be my revenge, and I believe many others would feel the same way should it happen to them. Also, putting someone in jail does not mean that society is safe from that person; in a day when seven inmates can escape together from a maximum security Texas prison, nobody can disagree. Finally, if you look at the places where there is the lowest crime rate, you will find law systems that are to some degree Draconian. Singapore has the lowest crime rate in the world, and its legal system is the closest thing to Draconian Law—an eye for an eye—anywhere in the world. This points to the conclusion that harsher penalties lead to less crime in a society.

However, my fortitude in favor of the death penalty has grown far weaker recently—but not because of anyone’s gimmicky argument. I do not accept the arguments “We have no right to judge,” “It’d only be hypocritical for us to kill someone for killing,” and “It won’t bring people back to life.” I have since read many startling statistics that depict the great inequalities within the death penalty system; almost all of the men sentenced to death are poor, and a strong majority are African-American.

On the very day I started

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A Time To Kill?

writing this article, my uncle sent me an e-mail with a quote from Luise Bernikow, which stated, “Imagine that we conjure up a world that is safe for mothers and daughters.” Simple enough, but the explanation of this quote dealt more specifically with the overwhelming existence of violence in our society.

“The question of violence and danger in society occupies a great deal of time, breath, and printer ink. The possibilities of peace and safety take up very little. It is usual for us to think of containing violence by greater violence: the violence of weapons, of prisons, of riot squads. And yet the teachers whose wisdom we prize above all others tell us that one cannot answer force with force; that only peace and detachment can meet violence and draw out its poisons.

“No sane person wants war. Yet we are so locked into violent patterns of thinking that many of us believe we should prepare for it. How would we go about preparing for peace? What is peace, anyhow? We seem to know very little about it.”

While thinking this over, I found that I very much agree with this line of thinking. There is too much violence all around in our society. However much I may want that person to die, it seems that the death penalty would cause more harm than good in the grand scheme of things; it would only add to the violence. But beyond that I have come to the conclusion that, although I would like someone like McVeigh to die, I would not want his death to be the result of an institutionalized practice. I would have no problem if he were killed in prison (by another prisoner, say), but the whole idea becomes much less credible when it is enforced by an institution like the United States Judicial Branch.

on the issue of reparations. He conveniently leaves out facts which might be damaging to his argument and he distorts those facts that he does use. His eighth argument against reparations is entitled, “Reparations To African Americans Have Already Been Paid.” He argues that programs like welfare and affirmative action have taken care of that. If that is true, then something else must explain the major gap both economically and educationally between whites and blacks.

In spite of all this, the Brown Daily Herald printed this advertisement. This action would have been far less deplorable if they had used the advertisement correctly. As Katha Pollitt, writer for The Nation, suggests, “Publish it and then attack it, mock it, parody it, I say. Use it as a springboard for a teach-in, discuss it in classes. Shutting down a discussion doesn’t change anyone’s mind or introduce any new information—and the views Horowitz expresses are held in whole or in part by many people. What message do they get if a paper won’t print them? That the real truth is too threatening to publish. It’s always better to promote speech than to silence people. Force those views out into the open and have a debate. That’s how minds are changed.” So perhaps, the Herald was not wrong in printing the ad. They were wrong, however, in how they handled it. They offered no opposing side or a side which pointed out the major holes in the Horowitz ad. Instead they allowed Horowitz to fully get away with manipulation and lies.

Reparation is a very sensitive subject. Some believe that African-Americans are owed monetary reparations. Others argue that the only way to effect change is by social reparations, i.e. affirmative action, quotas and welfare. Of course, many believe that none of these things are appropriate and that reparations only promote racism. Clearly this is the side that Horowitz takes. This side has many legitimate arguments, but also many illegitimate ones. His is a viewpoint founded on lies. The Brown Daily Herald had a responsibility once it decided to print the ad: to make sure that as a sound forum of journalism, truth and facts were given. It did neither. Therefore, the paper certainly acted incorrectly.

Brown Newspaper Raises Red Flags

By **MATTHEW ERLICH, I**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A month ago the Brown Daily Herald published an advertisement of sorts in their newspaper. Since then, this advertisement has been the subject of a great deal of controversy. It was an article written by a former radical turned right-wing promoter named David Horowitz, discussing the issue of reparations to African-Americans for slavery. The advertisement vehemently opposed the idea, citing ten very descriptive reasons why. This naturally sparked debates over the issue itself, but it also created another controversy. The Herald drew much criticism for even printing this advertisement, and the debate has become an issue of free speech, rather than one of reparations.

Brown student activists showed their opposition to the Herald’s decision to print the advertisement by destroying a majority of the press run. Were they mistaken in doing so? Horowitz presented an argument on a sensitive subject. Clearly others disagreed with this argument. Nevertheless, Horowitz does have a right to free speech, no matter how many people disagree with him. Additionally, the Brown Daily Herald has the right of discretion. They have the choice of which advertisements and articles to print. However, it certainly is wrong for the Daily Herald to print lies, manipulations and deceptions. The Horowitz advertisement is filled with these.

When addressing the issue, Horowitz asks, “What about the descendants of the 350,000 Union soldiers who died to free the slaves? They gave their lives. What possible moral principle would ask them to pay (through their descendants) again?” At first glance, this point appears to be legitimate. However, he (rather conveniently for his argument) neglects to mention the fact that Union soldiers were paid for their work, while slaves were not. He most certainly manipulated the facts, but more importantly, this statement is a lie. One of the greatest misconceptions of American history is that the Civil War was a war fought over slavery. Union soldiers did not die for the freedom of slaves. They died to prevent a secession by the Confederate states.

Horowitz is obviously presenting a skewed argument

Editorial Page

Rocket Article Incites Fireworks

By Zhi Wang, IV
Contributing Reader

I want to dispute the article printed on Volume XXX Issue III (Feb. 2001) called “Rocket from Your Pocket.” Though the article does contain some truth, the writer has overlooked much information and criteria.

At 3 a.m. on August 31, 1998, North Korea launched a ballistic medium-theater-ranged missile targeted at U.S. soil, but lucky for America, a technical malfunction caused it to break up on the third rocket stage, scattering debris as far as the Hawaiian Islands. These three-stage missiles have the ability to hit *anywhere* on the planet, and more than twenty nations not only have possession of them, but are continuing to improve them. This is happening while the U.S. remains completely defenseless.

The writer mentioned the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which has now collapsed. This treaty is no longer “valid,” and that is because the Russians have already repeatedly violated the treaty by building and testing a national network of ABM radar and interceptor rockets, and secondly, the breakup of the Soviet Union throws the entire treaty into great doubt. Meanwhile, the U.S. is the only one honoring the agreement and therefore is defenseless against missiles from not only Russia but also Third World countries, which are showing more and more hatred toward the United States.

The writer relies heavily on the concept of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) for defense; this concept was in fact developed during the Cold War between the Soviets and the Americans, so that whoever dared to launch the first strike would immediately be destroyed in the immediate retaliation. This concept can be rejected with the logic of “Saving lives is better than avenging them.” If just one missile is launched and reaches the U.S., it will probably be an air burst, killing millions of Americans and destroying everything in its affected regions, while the wind carries the lethal radiation to unaffected areas.

Accuracy is never a problem for ICBMs, for no matter where they hit, certain destruction is assured. The

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was started in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan; it has made huge strides. The main part of the defense is the development of Global Protection Against Limited Strikes (GPALS), an earth and space based technology that would protect the United States and its allies (more like the rest of the world) against small-scale missile attacks or an accidental launch. Sadly, it was canceled by former President Clinton in 1993.

Now as the U.S. argues to “pull” out of the illegitimate treaty, North Korea’s missile arsenal is growing, Russia is testing its new 6200-mile-range Topol-MICBM, China is working on two new models, Iran has tested a new 800-mile ballistic missile (posing a great threat to Israel and U.S. troops in the Middle East), and Iraq (under Saddam Hussein) is threatening to reconstitute its long-range ballistic-missile program. The writer says the money used for the defense should be used to help the poor and starving of other countries, well, (though I agree there are many that can use relief) North Korea is keeping its people starving to fund its project, Russia’s social chaos rises, and Iran and Iraq are using relief money to fund their projects.

So as we feed and care for their citizens, they are constructing weapons for our destruction, and I ask whether you think it is fair. The point of the defense system is for the

country to be protected *if* the strike occurs, just as a person gets a vaccine for a deadly disease, and though they don’t go wandering around looking for it, they will be protected when the disease does strike. Likewise for us, though the program is costly (no one will deny that), it will protect us from destruction if a missile is launched (even accidentally) against the United States.

These days, rational people will not use weapons of mass destruction against one another, but do not forget that the leaders of the world are not always rational. Take Hitler or Stalin for example. (They are definitely not the only ones, but they are the most famous and most recent.) They were leaders (powerful ones at that), and I bet no one would call them rational. So do not ever use the words “never” and “impossible” for things that are this deadly, for *nothing* is impossible, and do not place the lives of your family and countrymen before those green bills. For if you place their lives on the sensibility and rationality of the powerful world leaders, sooner or later, you will lose.

In conclusion, I disagree with the writer or overlooking the danger of ICBM threats on the U.S., or wher it does (and I hope it never will) happen, it would be too late to start the program of defense, for everything our founding fathers sacrificed would be lost forever in the rising mushroom clouds of ash. I’m sure America will not just simply die from the missile strike, for the country is strong and brave, but it will never be the same again. In September 1998, during Iran’s annual Sacred Defense Week parade, crowds were cheering huge camouflaged tractors towing ballistic missiles. A banner on one of the tractors reads “The USA Can Do Nothing.” The worse part is that it is *true*, for this taunting slogan is an accurate assessment of our country’s ability to defend itself against a deadly and growing threat.

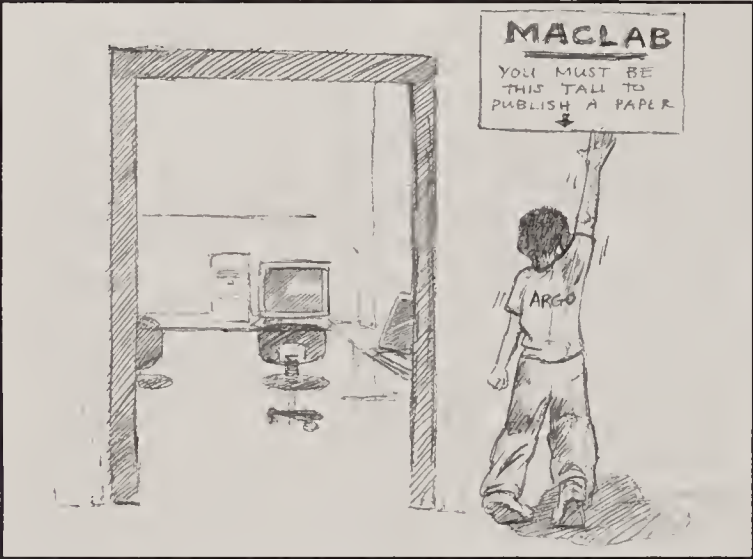
Curtains for Underclassmen?

By Nafkote Tamirat, IV
Contributing Writer

Before I say anything else, I’d like to say that I love drama. I love to act, and I love being involved in any aspect of theater, be it lighting, or set design, or whatever. I am a member of the Drama Club, and I support it, but I really do see some things that could be improved, excluding the inadequate facilities that the administration has seen fit to give us. The “Black” Box Theater, as it has now been termed, has windows and is not black, therefore defying any definition that exists for a “black” box theater. Perhaps, this particular room was only meant to be a “multi-purpose room,” but who knows?

First thing: in the last two productions of Centre Stage Productions, *Adaptation* and *Private Eyes*, every single actor was an upperclassman with the exception of a very few number of people in *Adaptation* who had minor roles. Seventh- and eighth- graders should not even bother to audition unless they have so much free time after school that they don’t know what to do with themselves. Basically, if you want to get into a Centre Stage production, you must be one of the following: a) an upperclassman, b) best friends with everyone involved in the production or one of the producers of the Drama Club, or c) so wildly talented that it would be impossible for you to be rejected. And for those of you who are determined to audition, even against these odds, here is something to keep in mind: There are certain people who almost always get chosen. I am by no means saying that the people who are chosen aren’t wonderfully talented—they are. I’m just saying that maybe we should let in some other wonderfully talented people, who might not have as much experience with Centre Stage Productions. After all, if people are going to be rejected because of their lack of experience, why not help them gain this experience?

Secondly, I know that many people in the lower grades feel intimidated by some of the people in the Drama Club. This might stem from the fact that, unknowingly, members of the Drama Club act just a little bit condescending. Maybe if everyone tried to really be there for the younger



grades, more people would join. Again, I know that every year in the first meeting, the theater producers make a point of saying that they are always open to questions, concerns and comments, but this message just doesn’t seem to be getting through.

There have been a few positive changes. Last year there was a “Sixie Play” which got many of the seventh graders involved, and the Yellow Submarines, the school’s improvisation group, also drew in many younger people as well. The Drama Club is a wonderful group, with great people, but I’m sure we can make a few things better. ... Right?

Editorial Page Editor and member of the Drama Club Rose Costello responds:

The issue raised in this article is one which the Drama Club has been trying to address for years. As an underclassman I was often hurt and confused by casting decisions which seemed to be based more on favoritism and seniority than talent. As i’ve grown older, however, I have been responsible for casting decisions myself. These experiences have made me realize that directors choose older actors, not because of prejudice, but rather because most roles require more experience and an older look than many underclassmen have. The club, however, has of late tried very hard to add programs which reach out to its younger members. The production Mask, The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe, The Spring Night of Scenes, and the spring production of Lovers and Other Strangers have all tried to include students who have not been involved in the Drama Club in the past. To anyone who has felt jilted or discriminated against by past casting decisions, please continue to try out, and take every opportunity possible to act or learn about acting. Experience can only help you.

Arts and Entertainment Editor and Drama Club producer Jonathon Gass responds:

I like the fact that you have brought up such an important issue. As a producer in the Drama Club, I have personally dealt with this issue for the past few years. Directors choose the actors who best fit their respective roles. There is no way around that. We encourage everyone who is interested to audition and we offer equally important tech positions to those who do not make the cast list. I’m sorry if some may see that as “condescending,” but remember that drama is an art, and it is subjective. Plain and simple.

Argo Editors Handcuffed by Policy Shift

By Rebecca Tumposky, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Each spring at the ceremony of Passover, we Jews ask ourselves, “What makes this night different from all other nights?” The answer is simple: On Passover we eat unleavened bread, dip our parsley in salt water, and recline in our chairs. More recently I asked myself the same question in a different context. That is, what makes the Argo different from all the other extra-curricular activities at BLS?

Well, for starters, during final production week, the staff often stays until 10 p.m. (without reclining). Until recently, we had permission to use the MacLab unsupervised until the custodians kicked us out, and at that time, we could shut it down ourselves. Then came the move.

Currently, with the MacLab located directly next to the Language Lab, the Argo staff is no longer able to use the room unsupervised. The ostensible explanation for this is that the Language Lab, which holds valuable equipment, is not secure from outside intruders since the door that connects the two rooms cannot be locked (this would produce a fire hazard). It has been suggested that when a teacher cannot stay late into the night, members of the Argo should ask their parents to supervise in the teacher’s place.

It is impossible to put out a newspaper if we cannot use the room in the evenings. The Argo has been trusted to take care of the computer facilities and has never had a problem doing this. It is unreasonable to ask our faculty advisor or any other teacher to “babysit” us for seven hours after school. It is also unreasonable to expect parents to supervise us during those hours, especially when the majority of the staff are 18, and know a lot more about how the room works than any outside adult. And beyond that, if the real concern is about the safety of the Language Lab, having one adult to supervise us would not accomplish anything if there were an intruder.

Boston Latin takes so much pride in the Argo, and loves to show it off when alumni come to visit. It seems fair, then, that we be allowed to run our paper without inconveniencing adults, and that we be trusted to continue doing what we have always done.

Arts & Entertainment

Department Leaders Discuss Future of BLS Arts

By Jennifer Carrion, II and Sirad Corbin, II
Contributing Writers

With the addition of the new Fine Arts Wing, the Fine Arts curriculum of Boston Latin School will soon be undergoing similarly revolutionary changes. The Argo spoke to the school's leaders in fine arts, music, and theater: Ms. Craddock, Mr. Pitts, and Ms. Teasdale, respectively.

Argo: What do you hope to see in the near future for arts at BLS?

Ms. Craddock: Offerings for all the upperclassmen in the form of electives.

Mr. Pitts: Well, I'm hoping to get for next year one more visual arts teacher, which is the first step we want to take. As to what that person will be teaching, it will either be computer graphics or photography or 3-D visual arts. I'm developing a questionnaire to survey the eight graders and I'm going to see if I can [find] someone to survey the ninth graders to see if we want to go with computer graphics or photography or 3-D art. I tend to think it will be computer graphics or photography but it's also pending alumnae support. We have someone in line to give a large sum of money and he's looking for a proposal about what direction we want to head in. We've developed a proposal [but] I haven't heard back from the alumnae association [as to whther] they've got the funding from him.

Argo: Do you think that arts should be a requirement for all grades at BLS?

Ms. Craddock: Yes, basically because art is at the center of our humanity. And as we've been trying to demonstrate with the Connections program you can study and understand any discipline entering it through the arts. All of our languages developed through the arts with pictographs, symbols, etc. Your first experience in terms of just being in the world is the arts, informally. At home, as a child, children play, it's pretend. That's their first theater. Children will move, they dance, respond to music naturally. Every child will go through various stages of scribbling. And that scribbling usually ends up developing into little symbols and shapes where they are explaining themselves they try to get a sense of themselves in the world. This is without any instruction, before going to preschool, before going to any kind of structured art classes. See, we're used to art [in] terms of you [going] to an art class and [learning] about art. But then we grew so far away from nature. Every culture, every people, regardless of how far back in time you go you, will

find art.

Mr. Pitts: I don't think that it should be a requirement for all grades. The BPS currently has an arts requirement for graduation. I believe it's equivalent to one year of instruction of the arts in High School so seventh and eighth grade would not count. So we are talking within the course of your span from 9 to 12. One year of arts instruction. The issue with that is that if you're in band meeting one year of instruction, instructional time in band would take two years to meet one years worth of instructional minutes. The same with the other courses, same with string and same with chorus because we don't meet everyday. So that's one of the things we would be looking at. Drama would be the same because that meets every other day. That would also be two years, also. Visual arts would have to be two years. We don't really have any visual arts offerings for the upperclassmen right now other than the AP art but that's really not going to service the entire student body if you're talking about 1400 students.

Argo: Do you think that BLS should offer more art-oriented classes such as dance and photography?

Ms. Craddock: All of it. Because one disciplined, you may be incremented towards movement or theater interpretation. It's like I have some students who are stronger with drawing, sort of working linearly. And other students may have a stronger sense of color, that may be the medium for them to work in. But all of the arts are interrelated. You know I can't teach one without pulling in the other.

Argo: What improvements do you think need to be made to the arts department?

Miss Teasdale: I think that the arts department could use more faculty, and hopefully we will soon get this black box theater actually painted black, which would give it more of a sophisticated theater feel.

Mr. Pitts: Well we need some more staff, basically. We need more staff so we can have more offerings for the students so [that] we could offer some more electives [to the] students. I'd like to grow the program. I'd like to get at least two more visual arts teachers and another music person. I'd like to add three staff eventually, long term either through BPS funding or through alumnae funding. And also I'd like to have an agile faculty and I'd like to have people that have come in and do. We already do have that a little bit funded by the alumnae association. We have a guy that does gospel choir [and] we have a gentleman that does show choir, so I'd like to develop some more small ensemble work with individuals specialists in their fields. Maybe, for example, like someone

who will come in and just do a photography class, someone who is a professional photographer. That's another direction I'm looking at. There is some photography collaborative in Jamaica Plain where we could get somebody to come in and we could pay them a minimal amount of money and they would get to use a facility. You know, we'll have a dark room and maybe we could work something out like that. In the future, like next year.

Argo: How do you think the arts curriculum at BLS ranks in comparison to other high schools?

Ms. Craddock: Ooh. I love this one. Well, let's see. I've been here about 28 years and still we have the only AP program in the city, okay. Consistently every year since I've been here Latin School is out there with scholastics that's we have artwork that is off being judged nationally. Every year we have students who win the Scholastic Arts Competition, which is the largest visual arts competition in the country. Students are offered scholarships.

We have the strongest program in the city. Also, we have been invited back to BC to exhibit for their second annual Art With A Social Conscience, and this is a juried art exhibition that includes only your secondary independent schools: all the private schools in New England. That's Phillips Academy, Exeter, Milton, etc. Last year when they had their exhibition we were the only public school invited to participate, and we took quite a few prizes. An exceptional number of prizes. The art students, visual art students.

Mr. Pitts: Well the curriculum in comparison to other high schools I think we're a little bit lacking in regards to sequential curriculum. The Jazz Band we just won a gold medal in the state finals. So that's one of the best jazz bands in the state. So, I don't think we're hurting there. But I think with the concert band program and some of the visual arts programs we don't have a sequential curriculum. In other words we have huge gaps. Like we don't have visual arts electives for 9th and 10th grade. And we don't have enough time spent in the music electives. But I feel it is something we can accomplish if we get some other things. But the whole thing with time spent is an issue now with the MCAS and everything else but I'm really looking at the post MCAS years for the 11th and 12th grades so if we can get something going in 9th and 10th grade then after people have already in essence gotten their high school diploma because they've got the MCAS now maybe they could get some more electives for upperclassmen and that combined with if they do change some classics requirements that may change the opportunities for juniors and seniors.

Jackass: An Artist's Perspective

By Allison Jolly, I
Contributing Writer

Due to delinquent babysitters and parents who have always appreciated pop culture, I have probably been watching MTV since I was too young. Back when it was just about the music video, the sophisticated (and often off color) humor of the VJ's blew right by me. As an adolescent viewer I was known to occasionally crack a smile at "Beavis and Butthead" and more recently I have gained a little more that mild pleasure catching an episode or two of "Say What Karyoke?" Actually untl a few short months ago with every new, non-music-oriented show that MTV piloted I would grow a little more disappointed. That was until the introduction of the sickest, most vibrant coagulation of stupidity and hilarity, MTV's JACKASS. A cross between "The Tom Green Show", "Candid Camera", and The Big Apple Circus on crack, with a little skateboarding and other extreme sports thrown into the mix, JACKASS is on its way to becoming the funniest series ever to grace the air waves under the auspices of the MTV network.

For those of you who have seen the show and loved every whacky, entertaining minute of it: good for you! For those of you who have never seen it, seen it and didn't like it, or seen it liked it and tried to stupidly and inanely mimic a stunt from the show, now i don't mean to estrange you, but what the heck is wrong with you? True, the humor is not exactly subtle and does not have any particular finesse, but I know quality entertainment when I see it. How could you not crack up watching a midget paddle around a pool sitting on a fat guy dressed in bubble wrap so he would float? You cannot possibl keep a straight face seeing some guy, with both his arms in casts walk around asking people to help him with his fly! And I am sorry, but there is no excuse not to

cringe from a strange mix of laughter and disgust witnessing people vomiting after an egg eating contest or seeing someone wipe out on a skateboard dressed as Santa. This is the paradox that keeps people watching the show: these stunuts and scenarios are so funny, yet no sane person would actually ever think of actually doing them. People watch for the laughter and the thrill without actually having to execute something potenitally dangerous, or dangerously embarrassing, which in turn would make them worthy of the title of JACKASS. Leaving these wild tasks to the professionals is a wise idea (ie kids, don't try these stunts which I have just verbally glorified, at home please.)

These brain damaged "professionals" are as follows: PJ Clapp (aka Johnny Knoxville), Bam Margera (sexy pro skateboarder), Chris Pontius, Dave England, Steve-O (a trained clown and my future husband), Brandon DiCamillo, Ehren McGheney, Jason "Wee Man" Acuna (resident midget and also a surprisingly ill skateboarder), Ryan Dunn and Raab Himself (not his real name). As you can see they come from all walks of life, all are best friends and self proclaimed JACKASSes. The show, co-produced by Johnny Knoxville, Spike Jonze, and Jeff Tremaine, originated when Knoxville, while writng for the skateboarding publication "Big Brother" decided to film himself testing self defense mechanisms (tazers, stun guns, and a bullet proof vest!). It turned out to be a pretty hilarious video and he started doing similar ridiculous stunts for skateboarding videos. Knoxville then teamed up with a bunch of equally crazy guys (most of the other guys in the cast) from Westchester, PA and, well, then MTV got involved and the rest is viewing history.

Sunday nights at 10 have become family bonding time in my house. My brother, sister and I sit healthily glued to the television and laugh like freakin idiots for an hour . . .

not just laugh, but cackle so that nobody else in the house can sleep. We continue to laugh when trying to best describe a certain stunt to the unfortunate person who happened to miss the previous night's fiasco. People can't get enough of these guys and their antics! To true fans' delight, the guys of JACKASS are working on two full length DVDs, plus there is a plethora of other JACKASS memorabilia to keep you occupied in the meantime. For now, disbelievers, please give the show a chance, it is intense! The addition of JACKASS to the MTV line up of programs has really pleased myself and other viewers. I have been waiting probably too long to laugh like this once a week.

WHAT MAKES JACKASS

- 1) Pain
- 2) Poop (or any other bodily fluid)
- 3) Extreme Sports
- 4) Dressing up in a costume
- 5) Getting kicked in the crotch
- 6) Nudity

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Arts Spotlight



Joe Christiani

By KAITLYN JOLLY, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

You all know him. He’s that sexy, really tall B-sie from JP who cut off all his Sean Ryan curls and opted for a sort of a “Caesar-esque” do. That’s Joe. You might also see him around after school, practicing and choreographing martial arts in some classroom, or being truant during school, chilling in the art room. Wherever he may be, one thing is for sure (besides the fact that he’s most likely towering over you at a whopping six feet something) he’s being artsy.

I have known Joe for about as long as he has been at this school, and for as long as I can remember he has been doing little doodles in my Latin notebook, teaching me ill karate moves, talking incessantly about local hip-hop and his little sister Nora (whom he absolutely adores), and ragging on me about how much he thinks I sweat JP. Since junior year, we have been in the same Art A.P. class, where Joe exhibits his unprecedented talents in painting and print making. (And where I accidentally split my pants during one of our impromptu karate sessions.)

Joe, originally from Dot, flocked to JP at the age of seven, and learned to paint and make prints under the tutelage of his neighbor who is an artist and a teacher. He fine tuned his print making skills, studying wood blocks in Japan, where he also studied architecture and martial arts. His monotype prints are made by rolling paint onto a plexi-glass plate, etching an image onto the thin layer, and then pressing the plate onto paper. They are awesome; and he puts so much time and effort into his woodcuts which can be used again and printed in many different hues and styles. He’s usually

JOE IS KNOWN FOR HIS EYE FOR COMPOSITION AND KNACK FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

the only one in our class who even attempts wood-cuts and it is not uncommon to see him grabbing his finger or hand asking for a Band-Aid, having carved himself instead of the wood by accident. (It is by no means an easy process.)

Joe is a staple of Mrs. Craddocks 5th period Art A.P. class and is known for his eye for composition and knack for constructive criticism. You know that your piece is money when he gives you the ever approving “That’s fresh.” He draws inspiration from many different areas and from all aspects of the arts. For instance, he is influenced by and admires DaVinci’s “sick genius” and Basquiat’s urban “steez”. His concentration for the Studio Art A.P. exam is exploring the range of motion in martial arts and depicting movement as tangible.

Not only is his talent off the charts, he also spends his Mondays after school, with some other gracious and charitable seniors, running an after school art program for the kids at the Conolly Library, in addition to giving karate lessons to the munchkins at the Westie Y. And if that’s not enough, his list of achievements has been capped off by his acceptance to the prestigious Brown University, which he will most likely attend. Oh yeah, he’s also the Photo Editor for the ARGO and has spent copious amounts of money on one hour photo every “Final Friday”.

Joe, who is in some circles referred to as “Statch”, would like to use this opportunity to give a shout-out to Mrs. Craddock’s class, those who fulfill the requirements of the “Tripple C JP Steez” and his girlfriend, Lolita (a.k.a. “Jailbait”). Who knows what is in store for Mr. Christiani; maybe he he’ll move to China and become a Shaolin Monk or become a model in Japan; or maybe he’ll make a fine career for himself as a bio-anthropologist/hip-hop connoisseur. Whatever and wherever he ends up, art will always be in his life, even if it simply remains a hobby. In the meantime, be on the lookout for Joe; you can’t miss him.

Lovers and Other Strangers

By MARILLE ANAS, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This fall, student director extraordinaire, senior Rose Costello, dove headfirst into christening our beloved “Black” Box Theater with her production of “Private Eyes”. The multi-faceted original show “MASK”, the brainchild of Ms. Teasdale, along with a number of talented students, and a handful of guest performers also went up this winter. In addition, Jon Gass’ Guild production of “Interview” was well received and attended by the Latin Community. The Drama Club has already met its maximum number of plays put on per year. Whoever said “...quit while your ahead,” obviously had no idea as to the insatiable desire and talent to put on theater that the drama club exhibits.

The spring production of “Lovers and Other Strangers”, written by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna, directed by Kaitlyn Jolly is now underway. This is the culmination of a stellar drama season and the last blaze of glory for Kaitlyn and many of her friends. It’s also her high school drama experience. So, she plans to go out with a bang,

and take her production back to the old school Latin drama mindset of “fun, fun and more fun!”

This large, diverse yet balanced cast is made up of everyone from freshman to seniors- from drama club virgins to Latin stage staples- and will undoubtedly pose an exciting challenge for Kailtyn and her sweatable production team, which consists of Diana Buda, I, Assistant. Director, Amanda Martin, II, Stage Manager, and Melissa Li, I, Asst. Stage Manager.

“Lovers...” is a show comprised of five vignettes that poke fun at quirky people in relationships during the 1970s. This drop dead funny script makes for some very interesting character work, on behalf of the actors. As always, the funds are exceedingly low, so they are going to have to get a little “creative” in terms of the technical aspect. But come on, what’s a play with out a little drama, right?

The play is scheduled to go up Memorial Day weekend; as long as you don’t have plans to cruise on down the Cape, do not miss it. With this dynamic cast, backed by some brilliant minds, it is sure to be one hell of a show; it is Latin drama at its finest.

Interview Review

By LUCY CRAVEN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin Drama Club’s production of *Interview*, was an invigorating mix of ingenious execution, creative vision and outstanding character work. The cast of this award winning production performed some of the best theater ever to grace the stage of Boston Latin.

The execution of this piece was carried out by Jonathon Gass, the show’s director, in an effectively stylized fashion. The script itself was a fairly difficult conquest for a first time director. He took the initiative and devoted many late nights to form his vision for this piece. Originally written as a 60’s social commentary on isolation in America to be performed by dancers, he transformed it into a timeless analysis of urban isolation in a lasting ensemble format. Along with Rebecca Pepp, the show’s award winning stage manager, Jon Gass brought high school theater into a new dimension with *Interview*.

The set, constructed by Caroline Gaudet and Douglas Le was incredibly powerful. Towering buildings ranging from seven to ten feet high wrapped by fabric in shades of gray comprised the backdrop that properly conveyed a feeling of grim solitude. Rythmology designed and played by Jeremy Jackson and John Beder added a raw street-like awareness to the play. Slide projections developed by Devon Rueckner projected onto the buildings gave the play a 3-D feeling and helped it come to life. The stage was set, now how did the cast put this vision to life? All I can say is that it was a fearless accomplishment.

The cast and crew brought *Interview* to the

Massachusetts High School Drama Guild in early March. In one of their best performances, the cast blew away the audience as the first performing school of the day. This annual competition that showcases high school theater from around the state is a great chance for Boston Latin to prove its excellence in something other than academics. Latin, as the forerunner for the entire day was confident in moving onto the semi-final round of competition. Slighted by what seemed to be blind judging criteria, *Interview* was eliminated from the contest in the preliminary round. No answers were given, and to this day the president of the Guild has not written back after a complaint was drafted and sent by the production team. Despite this, the show received overwhelming amounts of support from schools within the competition, including Lexington High School, the alternate winner of the whole competition. The cast and crew took this defeat and transformed their disappointment into energy for their upcoming public performances a week later.

A week later the ensemble was entirely pumped for their three public performances. At Northeastern’s Blackman Theater, *Interview* was performed and received incredible support. In such a professional space, the production team redesigned parts of the set and sound to better fit the large audience space. The drums were louder, the acting choices were heightened, and a spontaneity was accomplished to give this show an edge that shocked audiences. *Interview* was a complete success. Jonathon Gass will be directing an experimental piece written by himself and the cast this spring at the “Night Of Scenes at BLS” (date will be announced). He is excited to take on another challenge and will surely once again blow audiences away.

Drama Producers Announced

By JONATHON GASS, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Each year, as the senior producers of the Drama Club leave for the unknown, they are replaced by outstanding members of the club who will continue their work for successive years. This year with the addition of Adam Finelli to the already established production team of Kaitlyn Jolly, Allison Jolly and Jonathon Gass has been an extreme success. Now that Kait, Jon and Allie are off to college next year, they along with Ms. Teasedale have finally chosen the new producers for the 2001-2002 school year. Introducing Tommy, Jack, Faith and Marcus. ...

Thomas O’Malley: An extremely gifted actor and comedian in his own right, Tommy has been involved with BLS Drama for four years. This junior will bring much to the table next year and will continue the work that the current producers have established. Look forward to some hilarious comedies now that Tommy is in charge!

Jack Ferris: This junior has blown us away with his incredible talent for playwriting and acting. He has led The Yellow Submarine Improv Group for the past two years and has given many newcomers the chance to get started in their theater careers. He has shown a devotion that is sure to carry on through next year.

Faith Imafidon: An incredibly talented sophmore, Faith has shown the Club that her craft travels beyond the

realm of BLS productions. As a recent addition to Centre Stage Production’s new program, The Peer Players, Faith displays a love for Shakespeare. She will continue as a producer for the next two years and will surely leave a lasting mark.

Marcus Stacey: A great actor and a staple of the Drama Club for the past four years, Marcus has proven to be a wonderful addition to the team. With an eye on directing in the next few years, he is going to continue to thrive.

Congratulations! Look forward for great things next year! And always remember the motto. ... *Venimus, vidimus, ludimus!*

Note: While the Argo encourages readers to contribute any commentary they may have, we are regrettably unable to print anything anonymously.

And All That Jazz...

By Matt Erlich, I
Staff Writer

The Jazz Band has long been an ignored part of Latin School’s many great achievements. Despite its talent, it played few “gigs.” When they did play, however, the audience would leave very impressed. For years, the Jazz Band was conducted by Mr. Harper. Under him, the Jazz Band was small and featured a core of talented musicians who had been playing Jazz for a long time. Enters Mr. Pitts.

In 1999, Mr. Harper handed over the reins to the then newcomer Mr. Pitts. In his first year, Mr. Pitts turned the Jazz Band into a full-fledged Jazz Big Band. This was a very difficult task. It consisted of adding about ten new members to the previously ten-person Jazz Band. The difficult part was dipping into previously untapped sources of talent, in particular, younger musicians.

And so the BLS Big Band began. Practicing in a dank room on the ground floor, the beginnings were quite humble. The Big Band played their first show in January 2000. It was a show arranged by Mr. Pitts in which the Berklee Big Band played as well. The first performance was just the start. It was going to come a long way from there.

In February of that year, the big band competed in the Cape Cod Southeast District Festival, a competition for jazz bands all over the state. This was the first time the Big Band had ever partaken in such a competition, and they left with a silver medal—quite good for a first-year band. Also, piano player Lev Grossman-Spivak won the MVP award for the best musician in the competition. This was quite a distance to have come in one year. For the remainder of the year, the Big Band played in alumni events, capturing many fans along the way.

This year started off with cautious optimism. The band had a year’s experience behind them, however, several talented seniors graduated, including the core of the rhythm

section. They played several shows early in the year, and it was clear that this was a talented bunch of SOBs! Over February vacation they played in their first competition, the Berklee Annual High School Jazz Festival. This competition, held every year at Berklee, consists of some of the best jazz bands from along the East Coast. At this competition, they garnered a very respectable sixth place. Also, alto sax player Jacob Bor (I) won one of two “Outstanding Musician” awards, given to the top musicians in the entire competition.

This past March, the Big Band went back to the Southeast District Festival, this time at the even more competitive site of Foxboro High School. After playing their set, the jazz band sat anxiously through the awards ceremony knowing that they had a chance at gold. And, sure enough, when the awards were announced, they won the gold, which sent them to the State Finals later that month.

At the State Finals, they were competing against the gold medal jazz bands from all over the state. At stake was one of eight places for jazz bands at a Memorial Day weekend concert at the Hatch Shell. In order to get a gold, the jazz band was going to have to play to the very best of their ability. At five in the afternoon, they went on stage to play their set. From the first down beat to the last note, it was clear that the musicians had risen to the occasion. Nevertheless, the gold was far from a sure thing, which made the forty-minute long awards ceremony all the more grueling. The results for the Latin Big Band were some of the last to be announced. And finally they announced; “On behalf of the International Association of Jazz Educators, it is my honor to present Boston Latin School with a gold medal.”

In just two years, the BLS Big Band had risen from non-existent to one of the elite bands in the state. You can catch their Memorial Day weekend concert and several seniors’ last jazz band performance at the Hatch Shell on Saturday, May 27th.

Survivor: The Phenomenon

By Rebecca Pepp, I
Contributing Writer

Thursday has officially become my favorite day of the week. Every Thursday night at 8:00 PM sharp I hurry to grab a spot on my living room couch, turn the television to channel four, and get ready to be blown away. What is this strange phenomena that puts butterflies in my stomach from the anticipation of waiting and makes itself the highpoint of my week? That is correct; it is *Survivor*.

For those of you out there who are now groaning and thinking about the lack of entertainment value and immoral nature of reality T.V. have obviously not given *Survivor* a fighting chance. I too was once an opponent of reality T.V., but I have changed my ways and seen the light. *Survivor* is not only funny, entertaining and refreshingly original; but it also defines the word intense. It is truly addictive, and has become my current drug of choice. So what is it all about you ask? I’d tell you that it is simple, but that would be a lie. There are schemes, twists and characters so ludicrous no television writer could ever conceive of them.

The format of *Survivor* is as follows: you begin with sixteen survivors divided into two teams (Ogakor and Kucha in this particular season), and each week one person gets voted off by their fellow teammates. In the beginning, only one team must vote a week. Whichever team wins the immunity challenge that particular week does not have to vote. In addition to the immunity challenges, there are challenges to win other luxuries, such as extra food, blankets and fishing gear. Once there are only 10 people left altogether, the teams go through a merger, in which they combine and form one team which they then rename (Barramundi). From there, the show becomes every man for himself, unless, of course, old team loyalties die hard or new alliances are formed. Immunity and rewards challenges continue as before, except the victor is an individual, not a team.

The current season of *Survivor* takes place in the Australian outback and originally had the following sixteen members: Deb, Kel, Maralyn (aka Madd Dog), Mitchell, Kimmi, Mike, Jeff, Alicia, Gerri, Nick, Elisabeth, Rodger, Amber, Keith, Colby and Tina. It has now been whittled down to a measly six remaining survivors: Colby, Tina, Keith, Amber, Elisabeth and Rodger. Deb, the irritatingly strong willed corrections officer was voted off first from Kucha, followed by the clandestine beef jerky eater Kel, a member of Ogakor. Next came the loveable, but somewhat deadweight when it came to challenges, Maralyn, proceeded by the useless, weak, lazy Mitchell, both out of Ogakor. Kucha finally lost

another member when they booted the self-righteously vegetarian Kimmi. The merger came unexpectedly when Mike, the somewhat insane food gatherer for Kucha, burned his hands down to the bone in a campfire accident and had to be airlifted out. As a result, the teams went into the merger on even terms. The first vote of the merger was a vital one, as both teams went in planning to stay true to tribal loyalties. Unfortunately for Kucha, they lost Jeff, tipping the scales in favor of Ogakor. At this point, Okagor formed a strategy of just picking Kucha members off each week, which they stayed true to at first, but then strayed from. The first Kucha member to go after this was Alicia, who was followed in a surprise move by Gerri of Ogakor. The other Ogakor members (with the exception of dimwitted, sheeplike Amber who was Gerri’s shadow before she was voted off) apparently decided that they would rather go against their wot than vote off sweet-tempered Elisabeth over vicious, temperamental (but very entertaining) Gerri. The next week Ogakor got rid of lazy, boring but low on the radar Nick of Kucha. That brings us about up to date; so what will happen next?

The three major players of Ogakor, Colby, Keith and Tina, wield basically all the power at this point. Their alliances to each other seem extremely strong, while Amber is an outsider among them. They have all developed a good relationship with the also tightly bonded Rodger and Elisabeth, who now stand completely vulnerable as an alliance of only two people. Were Colby, Tina and Keith to do everything strictly by playing the game; their obvious course would be to vote off Rodger, then Elisabeth, then Amber. After that, it is anybody’s game. It is conceivable that any of the three would form an alliance with one other person, thus insuring themselves a spot in the final two. In my opinion, it is most likely that Keith and Colby will form an alliance against Tina. As strong as their commitment to her may be, it seems that Keith and Colby rely mainly on each other, while Tina has branched out a little more to the remaining members of Kucha. However, this theory may be completely erroneous, as it is entirely possible that Tina is just more outgoing than Keith or Colby, but has actually formed an especially tight bond with one or the other of them.

There is a second possible strategy for the three major powers to employ. They could act as moral people and vote Amber off before Elisabeth and Rodger. After Elisabeth and Rodger are kicked out, Keith, Colby and Tina can execute whatever strategy they deem fit. Some fans of the show claim that Elisabeth will win by sheer virtue of the fact that she is cute and loveable. This, however seems very unlikely based on the strong tribal loyalties between Keith, Tina and Colby.

Arts Spotlight



Kaitlyn Jolly

By Joe Christiani, I
Photography Editor

Picture this: a 6-year-old kid goes to bed. In her sleep she takes markers and draws all over her arms, legs, and face. That kid was Kaitlyn Jolly, a talented artist since childhood. Arguably, Kaitlyn’s body is still a canvas (Best Rear View 2001), displaying her Tello’s gear.. Kaitlyn has a passion for life and leaves a lasting impression wherever she goes, from the wrestling mat to the AP Art studio to the BLS Drama Club sets.

Kaitlyn uses her versatile talents to cultivate her art. She began her BLS drama career during her freshman year, when she brilliantly portrayed a sensuous femme fatale in the play “Black Comedy.” From then on, her drama life has continued behind the scenes. She was a techie for plays such as *Trial of God* and *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr Abrgd* (and she still hold the record for most mobile props mistress for her role in *Compleat Wrks*). Rising in the drama hierarchy, she stage-managed *The Crucible* and helped build the award-winning set for the play *Adaptation*. Presently producer of the Drama Club, Kaitlyn will be directing *Lovers and Other Strangers* by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna this spring.

Kaitlyn also admires Van Gogh for his unique use of color, outstanding portraits, and “for his sick steez.”

Kaitlyn’s artistic flair is not limited to theater. She is a valued member of the senior AP Studio Art class, where she is working on her concentration, the visual representation of music composition. “I want to show the parallel between visual and musical arts,” she says with excitement.. Kaitlyn draws artistic inspiration from artists such Romare Bearden, who concentrated on musical and urban themes. Kaitlyn also admires Van Gogh for his unique use of color, outstanding portraits, and “for his sick steez.” Translation: she likes his style.

Kaitlyn is a seasoned veteran of the Boston Mural Crew, a group including skilled graffiti artists who paint commissioned murals over the summer. Over the past summer, Kaitlyn helped produce three amazing works, her favorite being “The History of Hip Hop” in Dudley Square. She continues to paint murals for private commissions.

Not missing out on any aspect of the art world, Kaitlyn is also well versed in the field of music. She plays the acousticguitar, jamming out to folkie tunes with an occasional Beatles ballad for versatility. Kaitlyn shared her love of music for five years with the students of the Community Music Center during their summer program. She found this experience very rewarding and hopes to find other opportunities to share her love for all art forms with children.

Everyday when she wakes up Kaitlyn creates a work of art with her unique wardrobe. Although some have claimed she has the unfair advantage of having double the clothes because of her identical twin sister Allison’s contributions, without a doubt her garmets provide yet another outlet for her seemingly boundless creative energy.

Kaitlyn’s involvement in the arts seems limitless. She is enrolled in Music AP, in which she “is strugglin’, but enjoyin’ it.” She is one of the Arts and Entertainment Editors of the Argo. In the near future, Kaitlyn will be traveling to Cuba, then returning to direct her play. Kaitlyn would like to give shoutouts to: the Wrestling Team, AP Art, her sister Allison, and her “delinquent bro.”

Keep an eye out for Kaitlyn, and especially her upcoming play. If you don’t, you’re seriously missing out.

Oscars Review

By Thomas O'Malley, I
Contributing Writer

This year's Academy Awards proved to be one of the most surprising in recent memory. With almost all of the categories wide open, it was anyone's bet who was going to walk away with Oscar. In case you missed the big night, here's a quick rundown of the big winners.

Best Picture:

What Won: In what was perhaps the most ridiculous win of the evening, *Gladiator*, Ridley Scott's homage to the sword and sandal epics of the 1950s, walked off with the top prize. Although it had some decent acting, and a few impressive special effects, it hardly stood up against the other nominees. It was nothing more than a big budget summer blockbuster - the type designed to bring in an audience, not win Oscars.

What Should Have Won: Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* was by far the most outstanding achievement of the year. Four stories were brilliantly woven into one truly remarkable picture. The acting was top notch, and the direction was impeccable. Twenty years from now, this will be the movie that still holds space in people's minds, not *Gladiator*.

Best Actor:

Who Won: Russell Crowe took home his first Oscar for *Gladiator*. Although it wasn't a powerhouse performance, he's been owed one. After being overlooked for even a

nomination in 1997's *L.A. Confidential*, and again losing out to Kevin Spacey last year, the Academy finally gave Crowe a little golden boy to put on his mantle and remind him how good his life is. Cheers, mate.

Who Should Have Won: Ed Harris's portrayal of the tortured artist Jackson Pollock in the film *Pollock* proved that he was an actor to be reckoned with. And considering that the film also marked his directorial debut, the Academy was foolish to have overlooked this immensely talented man. But regardless, he'll have his chance again.

Best Actress:

Who Won: Having already won the Golden Globe, the Screen Actors Guild Award, and a slew of critics awards, Julia Roberts took the prize for the best performance of her career, *Erin Brockovich*. She proved that she was not only a pretty smile who can pull in over \$100 million at the box office, but a real actress.

Who Should Have Won: Although Julia was in a category full of wonderfully talented actresses, this was her year. No one was better than her.

Best Supporting Actor:

Who Won: Benicio del Toro. His conflicted Mexican cop in *Traffic* seemed to really impress his peers. Not only had he already beaten out all of his fellow nominees at the Golden Globes, he also stole the Best Actor prize at the SAG

Awards from the likes of Tom Hanks and Russell Crowe at the SAG Awards.

Who Should Have Won: Benicio del Toro. Plain and simple - he was the best. But it still would have been nice to see Albert Finney make an upset after a brilliant career spanning six decades.

Best Supporting Actress:

Who Won: It seemed inevitable that Kate Hudson would follow in mom Goldie Hawn's footsteps and walk away with Best Supporting Actress. But, in true Oscar form, there was an upset. Little known theatre actress Marcia Gay Harden proved victorious for her work in *Pollock*.

Who Should Have Won: Marcia Gay Harden turned in one of the finest performances I have ever seen an actress give. She defined her Lee Krasner, Jackson Pollock's long-suffering wife, not as a victim, but as a mother figure to the title character. After she leaves the movie, it suffers; it's not that its bad, it's just not as good without her. She is going to be an actress on par with Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson.

All in all, it was a good year for the Oscars. The show came in at under four hours, and the best acting was actually recognized. But with *Gladiator*'s win for Best Picture, it was proved that the Oscars are just as much a popularity contest as they are an acknowledgement of the most outstanding achievements in film. Overall, I'd give the show a B+. Until next year...

Bostix Offers Cheap Tickets

By Andrew Barr, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Looking for something to do on a Friday night that won't get you on the news and won't empty your wallet? Look no further than Bostix, a service which allows you to purchase half-price, day-of-show tickets to events all around the city. Tickets go on sale at 11 AM the day of the performance and cost 50% of the actual ticket value. So, if you were wandering around Copley Square one morning looking for something to do at night, you could purchase a ticket to see Blue Man Group at the Charles Playhouse for



under \$20. Other theater and dance performances are also featured. Bostix operates two kiosks. One is located in Copley Square near the fountain. The other is located near the entrance to Faneuil Hall. Both offer not only the half-price tickets, but connections to Ticketmaster so that you can purchase tickets to all sorts of events. And the lines are generally shorter than at the average box office, so if you're looking for tickets for a hot concert, you will be less likely to have to camp out overnight. Now, Bostix has a web site on which you can check to see which shows are available for any given day. The site is <http://www.bostix.com>. A sample of the slate of available performances includes Alvin Ailey at the Wang Center, the fabulous Blue Man Group, *Hamlet* at the Wilbur Theater, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Spingold, and many more. For more information, check out the website or visit one of the two kiosks around town.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

- MFA-American Folk
(April 8-Aug 5)
Springold Theatre Center-"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
(April 17-29)
Boston Latin School-Music Night
(April 27)
Blink 182 and Sum 41 at the Worcester Centrum
(May 5)
A.R.T.-"Richard II"
(May 11-June 10)
B.C.-Art With a Social Conscience
(May 11-13)
R.E.M.: *Reveal*
(May 15)
Huntington Theater Co.-"The Amen Corner"
(May 18-June 17)
Boston Latin School-"Lovers and Other Strangers"
(May 25-27)
WBCN River Rave
(May 26)
Hatch shell-Memorial Day Jazz concert
(May 26)
Radiohead: *Amnesiac*
(June 5)
U2 at the FleetCenter
(June 5-9)
Black Crowes and the Oasis at the Tweeter Center
(June 11)
Spring Night of Scenes
(TBA)

Technology

NU-TRONS Win at the Nationals

By My Dzi Le & Dieu Nguyen, I
Contributing Writers

No, it's no joke. The NU-TRONS really are the 2001 National FIRST Robotics Champions.

If you've been watching the news in the past few months, you may have heard about "IT," Dean Kamen's new invention. Dean Kamen and Woodie Flowers, a professor at MIT, co-founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) with one purpose: "to excite more young people about the fun, accessibility, and importance of science and engineering." FIRST Robotics is one of their programs. Beginning with only twenty-eight teams of students and teachers ten years ago, the program has grown to consist of over 500 teams nationwide, including some international teams from Canada and Brazil.

Each year in early January, representatives from every team congregate in Manchester, NH and eagerly wait for the rules and description of the new competition to be revealed. After each team receives the same set of rules and set of parts, they then have only six hectic weeks to design, build, and test their robot. The robots are all shipped off by a pre-determined date and teams begin to prepare for the regional competitions. Throughout the month of March, regional competitions are occurring all over the country. In early April, all teams are invited to attend the National FIRST Robotics Competition at Epcot in Orlando, FL.

This year's competition was called "Diabolical Dynamics." After nine years of head-to-head competitions, FIRST decided to make this year's competition entirely cooperative. Four teams are randomly paired

together and given two minutes to score as many points as possible. Points are scored by placing small black balls worth one point into a six-foot high cylindrical goal. On the field there are four large colored ball, one for each team. If these are successfully placed on top of the goal, they are worth ten points.

At the far end of the field, there is an area designated the "end zone" and each robot is worth ten points if it is in that area at the end of the match. In the center of the field, there is a seesaw-like bridge. If the robots are able to balance the bridge with one of the goals on it, the alliance's total score is multiplied by 2. If there are two goals on the balanced bridge, the score is multiplied by four. In addition, there are multipliers if each team in the alliance shuts off its robot before the two-minute match is over. Confusing? Most definitely. As you can see, strategy is key as teams try to optimize their score in accordance to the abilities of the members of their alliance. Considering the fact that alliances do not learn with whom they are paired until a few minutes before their match, this year's game is more diabolical than ever.

The NU-TRONS, our home grown national champs, is comprised of students from Boston Latin, Brookline High School, Milton Academy, and Catholic Memorial, all mentored by engineering students from Northeastern University and engineers from the sponsoring company, Textron Systems. Approximately twenty Boston Latin students participate on the team with Dieu Nguyen, I, as the lead student and other seniors include Stephanie Samson, Romina Gomez, Devon Reuckner, and Karen Soh, to name a few. Mr. Southwick, a physics teacher, is the faculty advisor for the BLS members.

After six harrowing weeks, the robot

was finally shipped off in mid-February, but not before being featured in the evening news on WB56. Students then had two weeks to get rested before packing for the UTC Regional in Hartford, CT on March 2-3. The first day and a half of the two-day competition was spent in qualifying matches where teams tried to accumulate as many points possible in hopes of ranking in the top eight to automatically qualify for the finals. Our final standing was 12th of 52 teams; however, the top ranking team chose us to be on its alliance because we had apparently impressed them with the capabilities of our robot. Four alliances competed for the regional championship, and in the end our alliance came in second.

If any of you noticed a few of your classmates missing from April 4 to April 9, they were probably enjoying Florida's warm sun. There were 335 teams at the National Competition. The teams were randomly placed into four divisions: Newton, Archimedes, Curie, and Galileo. Within each division the teams competed as if it were a regional. Then the winning team from each division proceeded on to compete for the national title. The NU-TRONS were in the Newton division and placed 22nd of 83 teams at the end of qualifying matches. To our great fortune and surprise, we were again selected by the top ranking team to be a part of its alliance. Scoring consistent 710's, we won the Newton division title. Then, outscoring the other division alliances with our consistent high scores, the Newton alliance, needless to say, won the National Championship.

To learn more about our team and about FIRST, visit <http://www.nu-trons.com>.

Classmates Crack Computer Competition

By Suzanne Chan, I
Business Manager

The clock ticks away as each minute of quick thinking matters the most. The tension is high as thirty-two teams of four from public and private schools from around Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut compete against each other at the 16th annual Providence College Computer Programming Competition. The dynamic and intelligent competitors include juniors and seniors with various programming experience with C++, Pascal, or Basic.

This year Ben Freiberg (II), Xiong Yuan Chen (I), Dennis Ng (I), and Jida Yan (I), have marked their spot of first place at the competition representing Boston Latin School. In a matter of time, nine programs had to be completed successfully. At the competition, two members of the team were

in the computer lab typing up, compiling, and testing a program while two others remain in another room writing up the other programs. Teamwork plays an essential role. Jida commented, "The atmosphere was hectic...I think we won because we worked on the easy problems first. We had teamwork, and we communicated well." In accord, Dennis said, "Well, the competition is tense. People typing, people spilling stuff, and people everywhere. Luckily, there's no momentous thematic music from movies like Crimson Tide...I do not believe that our team would have won had we not efficiently concentrated our efforts to do our best."

Prior the competition, all four members had no preparation whatsoever..One the way, Ms. Ryan, the coach, discussed strategy with the team. She emphasized that "not only are kids good programmers, but they can't win unless they work as a team and

strategize. You have to strategize which programs to do first." In addition, she said that it is essential for "a combination of bright and talented students to work as team players." Strategy indeed took an effective course in the competition.

"It was challenging. At times, we were neck to neck with another team, but we are an experienced team and knew ourselves as well as our opponents," Xiong recalls.

Having secured first place, our school's team brought back a team trophy. Xiong, Dennis, Jida, and Ben each received a certificate and plaque for their achievement. If they choose to attend Providence College, they would also receive \$5,000 scholarship renewable annually. The team is now invited to attend the New England Regional Computer Competition in May. Best of luck to them!

P2P Piracy Update: After Napster

By Devon Rueckner, I
Technology Editor

As you probably know, Napster's time has come. They have begun making it more difficult for you to download your illegal music. In order to keep its head above the sea of lawsuits threatening to smother them out, Napster has begun to implement a filtering system meant to block copyrighted material from being shared. The keywords and song names they are blocking are taken from a gigantic list provided by the RIAA, so if you're into music more obscure than (shudder) Metallica, Eminem, and Britney, then there's a chance you won't be affected. In addition, since the filter is keyword-specific, any slight misspellings of song titles will likely

return results, and some have begun putting all their song names in pig latin to circumvent the filters.

Napster has become just another law-abiding company and it soon will become a subscription-based service before long. Fortunately, there are alternatives springing up right and left. Two of special note are *BearShare.com* and *Kazaa.com*. BearShare is a Gnutella client, meaning that it runs off the decentralized and totally free Gnutella network, which at one time was considered to be a phenomenal success in peer-to-peer file sharing until it became bogged down by slow users, leechers, and inefficient handling of network traffic. BearShare is bringing Gnutella to the mainstream again with its slick client program and backend programming

which help speed up Gnutella for everyone. Kazaa is based on the Gnutella concept, but is built on its own more efficient network protocol. It features intelligent downloads, file resuming, and is extremely reliable overall. It doesn't have as expansive a user base as Gnutella and BearShare, but with 20,000 users logged on at any particular time, you can usually find just about anything. Neither of these programs are limited to just MP3 files as Napster was – for those of you with broadband, use them to download your favorite illegal DVDs, warez, Simpsons episodes, and anything else you want. And because both networks are decentralized (no main servers, unlike Napster), the RIAA has no one to sue. Enjoy.

Tech Spotlight



Karen Soh

By ThanhThao Huynh and Betty Ho, I
Contributing Writer & Layout Editor

Karen Soh: the savvy techie, the creative artist, and the fun and loving friend.

Through night and day and perhaps all eternity, the incessant tapping of Karen's agile fingers on her keyboard can be heard. Whether playing that new computer game or updating her Web site, Karen has a true passion for all things computer. She is in her second year of Computer Science and participates in the American Computer Science League and the Seevak Web page competition. Aside from computers, Karen also devotes much of her time to the BLS Otaku Society, The Chess Club, volunteering in the Library Media Center, and many other activities that make her one of the most outstanding students at BLS.

Though Karen is interested in anything related to computers, she is most fascinated by the graphics aspect partly because she "stink[s] at the technical stuff." In college, she plans to major in Computer Science and dreams of working for Squaresoft, creating life-like 3-D characters as seen in *A Bug's Life* and *Final Fantasy*. With this career goal in sight, Karen was quite enthusiastic to join Northeastern's nationally first ranked F.I.R.S.T. Robotics team this year, which gave her the opportunity to work with claymation.

In addition to her passion for computers, Karen is also one to explore her artistic side. She is often seen bent over her little notepad with a blue China marker in hand, madly scribbling away at some new anime drawing. Her love for Japanese animation stems from her childlike affection for Saturday morning cartoons, which she hopes to integrate into her future computer graphics career.

Karen is an exemplary student who is a great contribution to the school. As a member of the National Honor Society, co-president of the BLS Otaku Society, and former two-term president of The Chess Club, Karen proves that she is a strong leader. Despite all of her impressive accomplishments, Karen remains very humble. When told about her tech spotlight, Karen responded with shock: "I don't know why you are picking me for the tech spotlight when there are 21 other students in my computer class who are 100 times more talented than I."

Of all the things we can say about Karen, there is nothing that can fully describe her wonderful qualities as a person. Her amazing aptitude inspires many to work harder. Her generosity is amazing. She may seem like any other ordinary person, but in truth, she is incomparable.

Sports

Wolfpack Hockey Reaches Championship Caliber

By GREG PORTER, I
Assistant Sports Editor

For the Lady Wolfpack hockey team, the State Championship was nothing new. As defending state champions, senior captain Jessica Price and the rest of the girls were not surprised at all when they found themselves in the title game for the third consecutive year. But what they found there would give the team the shock of their high school careers.

For those of you who don't follow the sport, a high school hockey game consists of three 15-minute periods and every now and then a game will go to overtime where either one team capitalizes or the game ends in a tie. That is how a conventional game goes, but this years division 2 girl's State hockey championship was no conventional game, not in the least.

In what was predicted to be a "grueling" match up on paper turned out to be just that and more. For two days, 95 minutes and four overtimes, Boston Latin and Dedham fought it out on the ice. Those who were there described it as an "unbelievable display of team work and endurance." Every minute in this historic game was played with the same intensity and same passion. As the game moved into its second day (due to a lack of ice time) the score was all tied up 2-2. But on



FILE PHOTO
Jessica Price leads the attack

that second day, Latin fell up just one goal short as Dedham's Michelle Tesoro netted the game winner to give Dedham the 3-2 victory and cut the Wolfpack's back-to-back title bid short. As Latin coach Marty McDonough said, "We had one hell of a season. We went 16-2-3, made the state finals and played in the longest game in MIAA championship history. As a high school coach, I can't ask for much more. Everyone on this team should walk away from this game with their heads held high."

As if that wasn't enough drama for you, the Latin boy's hockey team was also on a tear in the playoffs this year. The past few years, the Wolfpack had been shut down from a state title shot, loosing in the divisional semifinals twice, but this year was different.

There would be no disappointing loss in the semifinals this year, as the Wolfpack followed the spectacular play of seniors Brian Carthas, Charlie Levin and both Andy and Nick Collins, right past Duxbury and Whitman Hansen and headed to the Fleetcenter for the team's first ever state title appearance and a date with division 2 south champion Danvers.

Only days after the girls heartbreaking loss to Dedham, the Wolfpack faithful, students and teachers alike, packed into the Fleetcenter in hopes of seeing the boys team pick up right where the girls had left off and bring a title to Boston Latin.

Right from the beginning the game was tense and you could tell that the boys were out for blood. Senior Mike Manning struck the first dagger when he put Latin up 1-0 with 2 minutes left in the 1st period. From that point on, both teams traded goals, but Latin was never down. For the majority of the game, Latin either held the lead or was tied.

But as the 3rd period reached it's halfway point with Latin up 3-2, tragedy hit the Wolfpack. Senior captain and all star defense men Charlie Levin had to leave the game when he was cut wide open with a skate to his face. With his counterpart Nick Collins already out for the game with a dislocated shoulder, the Wolfpack had run down to the bear minimum for defenders with 5 minutes left in the game.

All Latin could hope for was for some good luck and to play some "keep away", but the big defensive loss began to show its ugly head when Kyle McCullough of Danvers broke past the skimpy Latin defense and tied the game at 3-3 with under 3 minutes left in regulation. But then the unthinkable happened. In a game that Latin had never trailed, Danvers Byran Duggan broke away with the puck and towards the helpless Latin goalie David Katz and scored the game winner with only 52 seconds left in regulation. That was all she wrote for the Latin boys team as time ran out and the players, coaches and fans watched the Danvers Flacons hoist



FILE PHOTO
Championship Game at the Fleetcenter

the Divison 2 State Championship trophy over their heads. It was a tale of two hockey teams and two heartwrenching losses at Boston Latin this winter. If ever the phrase "so close, yet so far away" was perfect, it is now.

But regardless of the teams disappointing losses in their respective state championships, none of the members of the Latin girl's hockey team nor the boy's hockey team have anything to be ashamed about. Both teams worked their asses off and had incredible seasons, and although they may not get to display any state championship trophies this year, they sure as hell are champions to every student and faculty member here at Boston Latin.



By JEREMY JACKSON, I
Sports Editor

Over the years, BLS sports teams have seen many a great athlete pass through the ranks. As the pre-season practices begin for spring sports, one topic is always on the minds of aspiring athletes: who will play? Upon close investigation, one will always find a few seniors vying for top positions on team who have given every waking hour of their time at Latin to the success of the team. And then one will always find a young hot shot bursting through, hoping to showcase their talent to the coaches who eagerly await new prospects.

Most of the teams in the school have been given sufficient facilities and staff to guarantee that no aspiring athlete with drive and/or skill be disappointed. Granted, being in the city, most of the teams have found it difficult at times to provide sufficient practice space, but this is a area in which the school has made some progress. The coaches can generally allow all those who try out to practice with the team, and either sit on the bench during games, or play for the Junior Varsity or Freshman teams. But when it comes down to crunch time (or 'cuts week' as it is often called), many important decisions need to be made, and there are always a few disappointments. The coach is always torn at one point or

another between a devoted team veteran and a younger player with a lot of raw talent. What is the job of a high school coach? What should motivate his choices for the team?

All too often, the coach of a team will find himself doing all that he can to help the team win. After seeing the smooth swing of a bright freshman, or the incredible speed of a fiery-eyed sophomore, often a coach will not take the time to think rationally. These types of coaches usually find themselves halfway through the season with a team full of ego-stricken kids who are not experienced enough to understand the dedication and strength it takes to win. This lack of leadership inevitably leads to the downfall of the morale of the team, and an unsuccessful season. When a coach acts this way, he also creates a sharp divide among the athletes, pinning the older against the younger, and often encouraging the older to quit.

On the other side of the coin is the coach who clings to his sentiments too strongly, and after developing close bonds with a few students over the course of five or six years decides to place all of his seniors in starting positions, whether they are deserving or not. The problem with this approach is twofold. For one, the team that this coach puts together might not necessarily be the strongest team that the school can produce, and the season will not be as successful as possible. Also, if the coach approaches his decisions this way he will inevitably alienate his younger players, and miss out on the opportunity to develop younger talent for the future. So in the long haul, this approach proves to be much less effective.

The process is no doubt a strain on everyone involved. It has escalated the stresses of attending BLS to almost unbearable levels for some students. And at the same time, the job is not at all easy for the coaches. Making the final cuts has always created difficult relationships on all levels of the teams, but it is a process which must be done.

It has become clear to many coaches that, in general, in order for the team to find optimal chemistry, the coach need to seek out the proper balance of these two extremes. The young talent is needed to provide for the future of the team, as well as lighten up the spirit of the group. This is essential. The veteran players are needed to lead the rest of the team and bring the maturity and wisdom necessary for success. This is also essential. It is when coaches realize this need that they are able to compose the best possible team. These are the types of teams that are able to win championships and build legacies.

Softball Leads Off

By LINDSEY EMERSON, II
Contributing Writer

After a long cold winter the Girls' Softball team is eager to return to the field. Following upon their most successful season in recent history and making it to the semi-finals of the state tournament, is a tough challenge, but these girls are setting their sights to an equally if not more successful campaign. Although half of last year's squad graduated, there is more than enough talent to fill the gaps left on this young team.

It has been a slow start due to inclement weather so they've stealing gym time and even practiced in the snow one day! They have earned a 1-1 record so far, at press time, defeating Latin Academy in their season opener. Their loss to a competitive Saugus team was made even tougher when lone senior, captain Karyn Rautenberg, was benched with a knee injury. However, star pitcher and Co-captain Jackie Coffey is back and getting into her groove. She's looking to defend her All-Star status by leading Latin to another great year. The Saugus game was a display of multiple rookie mistakes in base running and fielding. But like Coach Morris said, "We're getting better every inning." Hopefully the girls learn adapt and learn quickly or it will be a tough season in the DCL.

Since Rautenberg is the only senior, the junior class is going to be called on to play a major role in the team's success. Stepping out of the shadow of last year's seniors and into starting positions are junior veterans Liz Erlandson and Meg Faherty manning the outfield, with Laura Hauck and Jen Olson playing first and second base respectively. Other returning players who will be key to Latin's success are sophomores Courtney Carthas, at third base, Lauren Lazar behind the plate, and Stephanie Maneikis, in center field. Newcomers of all ages Leigh Gilmore, Megan O'Connor, Kerry Brennan, Helen McCarthy, Kara Higgins, Dina Zawaski, Jenna Meade, Leanna Blicher, Nadine Deery, and the experienced sixie, Jacqui Villani, are sure to add depth to this already impressive lineup.

This young squad hopes to use their speed and talent to qualify for the state tournament early and prove themselves as a worthy opponent and force to be reckoned with in the Dual County League.

Winter Sports Wrap-up

BY KARYN M. RAUTENBERG, ERIN BURKE & LIZ ARIAS, I
SPORTS EDITORS



*Jessica Price
*Michelle Tassinari.

The Girls' Hockey team played yet another fantastic season on the ice. Younger players have always dominated the team, and they're becoming more mature as a team on the ice. They earned a 17-2-3 record with the leadership of captains Jessica Price (I), Michelle Tassinari (I), and Courtney Carthas (III). Jessica, who earned an All-Star slot, was tough on defense throughout the year, but came through as a forward when needed on the big plays. The two-letter athlete has been playing since 8th grade, which was Latin's first season. Michelle, who joined in ninth, has contributed on many levels, especially as left wing on the second line. Helen McCarthy, another All-Star, has been a huge part of the girls' success, completing her fourth solid season in net. "We had a really good season...despite the unfortunate ending," said defenseman Carthas. Sophomores Kerry Brennan, an All-Star center on the second line, and Aislinn Doherty knocked in quite a few goals this season. The spotlight also shone on younger players like eighth graders, Catherine Foley and Katie Balaconis, and sixies Molly Tobin and Jacqui Villani.



Boy's Swimming enjoyed a successful season despite the lack of numbers. Leading the way for the Wolfpack were Senior captains, Dan O'Reilly, Kevin Mann and Seth Thomases. Dan and Seth were also distinguished with the honor as DCL All-Stars. The team did well and finished with

*Kevin Mann
*Dan O'Reilly
*Seth Thomases



Coaches Jeff Azer, Joe Landauno, and Kevin Daly gave the Wrestling team a base to compete well in the tournament season. Highlights of the season were at Sectionals this year. Impressively, most of the Varsity Seniors Jason Allukian, Brian Farnkoff, Leo Gannon, Kevin MacDonald and John Paul Bravo, all made it to the second day of competition. Brian placed 5th at Sectionals, Jason fourth and JPB, second. Jay went on to place 5th at All-States and Biggie's 2nd place at States gave him a berth to the Nationals. Competing in one of the toughest leagues, Latin had a losing league record, but clearly this team was not lacking in talent. With young Varsity competitors like Jose Valenzuela, Brian Nowak, Nate Jackson, Nathan Allukian, Corey Nimmer, Steven Armant, Mike Paladino, Dean Colpack and Joey Webb, the team was not lacking in depth.

*Jason Allukian
*John Paul Bravo
Tommy Chin
Steven Delosh
*Brian Farnkoff
Leo Gannon
Kaitlyn Jolly
Kevin MacDonald
Karyn Rautenberg



Jeff Arinella
*Brian Carthas
Joe Coffey
Andrew Collins
Nick Collins
TJ Hannon
*Charlie Levin
Mike Manning
John Tobin

This year the Boys' Hockey team went further than any previous team at Latin School history. With a record of 18-1-1 in the regular season, they went on to win the Division II Southern Region Tournament. Coach Coleman, who's been coaching for over 35 years, led the team in their quest for the State Championship. Their training, team unity and natural talent were key to this squad's grand success. Joey in particular would like to "thank all of the players, coaches, families, and fans of the Boston Latin hockey team. I had a great 5 years because of Coach Coleman and I'm glad my senior year was our best." Special congratulations to Brian Carthas, Andrew Collins, Nick Collins, and Charlie Levin for their success at the Colorado Nationals



Erin Burke
Lindsay Conlin
Aisha Cort
Dee Owoleowa
Abra Mason
Katie Meade
Jennifer Ruff
Jovia Leveille

With the loss of several key seniors last year, many predicted a rough season for the Girls' Indoor Trackteam. However, under the circumstances, the team performed beyond expectations. They finished third at the DCL Championship, with only one point separating them from the second place team, and two away from first. Lindsay Conlin and Thrisha Rose dominated the high jump, coming in fourth and first. Going on to states included an en? of runners including Caroline O'Donnell and Bridget Butler in the mile, Aisha Cort, Abra Mason, and Jessica Porter in the 55m, Tasheka Folkes in the 300, Erin Burke in the long jump, Dee Owoleowa and Liz Tricco in the 600m. At States, Aisha Cort was the top performer, finishing first in the 55m. All in all, the team enjoyed unexpected success, and is looking forward to repeat in outdoor.



*Brian Hughes
Marquis Johnson
*Keith MacDonald
Matt Murphy
Christian O'Donnell
*Ugo Ojimba
Pat Pinto
Owen Roddy
Gary Webster

After finishing with a record of 4-16, The Boys Basketball Team ended the season with a status that didn't reflect their ability to succeed. Sustaining four injuries over the course of the season, they kept their composition and were able to defeat Lincoln-Sudbury in their second encounter. Latin's losses were all by a close margin, there were just a lot of tough breaks. However, many of the seniors hope to continue playing in their AAU and "Hoop It Up" seasons.



*Ashley Britton

The Girls' Basketball Team proved highly competitive in the DCL this year with a record of 5-15, especially considering the absence of Senior Ashley Britton's talent. Ashley has played a leading role on the Varsity Basketball team since ninth grade. Unfortunately, she spent her last eligible year cheering from the sidelines with a knee injury. Ashley's Co-captains, Junior Jackie Coffey and Sophomore Catherine Stone led the youthful team. Other frequent starters were Alexandra Allukian, Janelle Jackson and Kristen Stone. The highlights came against Concord, Bedford and Weston. With a young base of talent like this, the Wolfpack seems destined to make next year's tournament.

Sports Spotlight



Anthony Hamad

By Elizabeth Arias, I
Assistant Sports Editor

Amidst piles of odds-and-ends: lawn chairs, board games with pieces missing, and used chipped plates emerges a very eager seller of the worst kind of junk. Anthony Hamad, stationed at his home, directs the yearly Yard Sale for much-needed funding directed towards the tennis team.

Anthony is one of the most under-appreciated athletes in the senior class, his talent stemming from his dedication to two sports that have reputedly drawn little attention at BLS. His prowess both on the court and on the field have earned him several awards from governing committess, yet little recognition elsewhere. It is Anthony's quiet and sincere demeanor, however, that is most impressive.

In elementary school, this do-gooder astounded audiences with his mastery of the piano. Yet when a horrendous accident caused his career as a protégé to come to an abrupt halt, he decided to focus his talents on soccer and tennis instead. It is in these two areas that Anthony has greatly excelled and truly become a man of the ages.

Also mastering the physcial art of Karate in his younger high school years, Anthony has expanded his athletic

*It is ANTHONY'S QUIET
AND SINCERE DEMEANOR,
HOWEVER, THAT ARE MOST
IMPRESSIVE.*

horizons beyond the conventional sports world. Anthony has focused himself on maintaining a high proficiency in the sports of soccer and tennis most recently. However, in his younger years when time was more available and his body could withstand the punishment, Hamad made it a point to expand his interests and abilities. Training at the Chung-Mu Du gym on Center street in West Roxbury, Hamad worked tirelessly to perfect his skills over.

Fast forward to senior year and a new and improved, slightly gelled, spiky-haired T-Money (nicknamed by his long-time tennis partner Jeremy Jackson) greets you with the same wide-eyed smile. In eighth grade, Anthony joined the tennis team for Latin and has played ever since, now featured as one of the top singles players in the Dual County League. As one of three captains this year, Anthony has won first place in the 18 yr. Boys Mayor's Cup along with being voted MVP of the Boston Latin team last year. Hamad has been quick to make a name for himself in the DCL as a feisty baseline hitter with great feet and a ton of topspin. His aggressive game is as versatile as any, allowing him to keep up with some of the top players in New England. Hamad has patented ground strokes, grooved daily with his practices at Sportsmen's Tennis Center.. His one-handed backhand has evolved over the years into one of the most formidable in the league.

Aside from tennis, Anthony has made great strides in soccer as well, becoming the leading scorer on the team this past year. His most triumphant moment was the tying goal he scored against Weston to kick them out of the top 10, as well as watching Jonah Birch fall and spill all the team's drrinks after the game (always a classic maneuver). Anthony would like to thank Coach Osowiecki and Stoner for such a great season and Coach Kates for always seeing the bright side of situations. His strategy? He says, "Always being the underdog makes winning that much sweeter." That has pretty much been the motto for the BLS soccer and tennis teams for the last few seasons.

Overall, Anthony admits that he will miss the camaraderie and his friends most of all. Although undecided about his college plans, Anthony assures all that tennis will play an active part. Whatever this season and the future hold for Anthony, we can be sure that he'll be crushing all obstacles ... just like his overheads.

Rowing to Victory

By Meghan Davoren, I
Contributing Writer

It is seven o'clock on a cloudy Saturday morning in March. You are most likely sound asleep in the comfort of your warm bed. For the dedicated crew girls, however, their day began long ago. These motivated girls have been hard at work at the boathouse for hours preparing their boats and equipment for the upcoming day of intense training on the Charles River..

The Boston Latin Crew Team has been ready and eager to start their 2001 season for a long time. Though many of the other spring sports are just getting underway, the work for the crew team never truly ended last season. The girls began pulling the team together last July when they had a meeting to prepare for and plan the team's future. They have been meeting regularly throughout the year to discuss their goals fo rthe team. Pre-season training for this determined bunch began in mid-February with conditioning workouts at the YMCA and weekly visits to the school weight room. At the top of their long to-do list was finding a coach to lead them in their competitions, securing funds to pay for their boats and uniforms, and revamping equipment so they can look professional on the water. During the off-season everyone contributed time and resources to ensure the team's success and stability, and for that the captains are extremely grateful.and appreciative.

A team sustained predominantly by rowers and parents, the support of new athletic director, Coach McDonough, has been greatly needed and appreciated. Being a tight knit group, the team was sorry to lose some long time members this year.. After overcoming a few bumps in the road this winter, in particularly the lack of a coach, the small group of girls has regained its footing and been presented with

new possibilities. Led by senior co-captains Meghan Coyne and Meghan Davoren, the team is poised to have a strong boat of eight rowers. Seniors Amy Cochrane, Julia Hartwig, and Tricia Courtney are all veteran members of the squad who bring experience and strong leadership to both the locker room and on the water.. Junior rowers Suzie Dinsmore, Liz McDonnell, and Madeline Sedovic are consistently solid contributors. They will be very well-prepared to take the reigns of the team next year as captains. The powerhouse sophomores Jamila Martin and Kathleen Hughes are a driving force on and off the water.. The smaller team has allowed for more focused workouts, and the newly arranged boat now feels more confident on the water this spring. Through their comaraderie and team spirit, the varsity crew team is paving their way for a season full of success.

Although facing the annual problem of finding a coach, the team has some good prospects in this uphill battle and is optimistic for a fabulous spring. With the help of Coach McDonough, the girls worked with Brandeis coach Mike Iceland to prepare for the season and strengthen their ties to the rowing community on the Charles River.

Most of those early mornings at the boathouse are started off cursing the crew team, but by the time the sun has burned off the morning fog over the river, the workout is finished and the girls have gathered at IHOP for breakfast. Over pancakes, the girls will laughingly discuss the exploits of their morning and all remember the reasom they set their alarm clocks so early--for the lov eof the BLS team.

Team captains of this ambitius team this year are Meg Coine and Meghan Davoren. They strongly encourage anybody interested to give learning to row a shot, the team is always open to new members. The crew team also encourages all Wolfpack fans to come see some races this spring. While keeping an optimistic attitude during this phase of rebuilding, crew at BLS plans to be here to stay.

Boys Baseball Ready for
an All Star Season

By Jonathan Kreiger, III
Contributing Writer

Spring has sprung, and this one figures to be a lot like others at BLS. Seniors will rack their brains deciding which colleges to go to, overworked juniors will start talking to themselves, and the boys' baseball team will tear up the DCL once again. After the winning the league last year and going to the state semi-finals, the team hopes for a repeat performance, and possibly more. Most of the core layers are in their senior year and facing their final shot at greatness while wearing a Wolfpack uniform. That hunger for victory, plus an impressive pitching ace, amazing chemistry, offense, as well as defense, all add up to a championship-caliber team. So the rest of the DCL can bring it on, these Boys of Spring are ready to take the fields.

Burgess Nichols will lead a thin pitching staff into battle. He has been training with a pitching coach all winter, and according to early reports out of practice, the extra work has paid off. But, as Boston sports fans know all too well, one strong pitcher does not a team make. Last year's senior

*"It's a fact that all nine kids
hit."*

pitchers, including Matt Mitchell and Anthony Delprete, will be sorely missed. However, junior Mike McCarthy will be soon stepping into the pitching rotation as a group of younger players will be asked to fill the void.

Luckily, the pitching won't need to be perfect. Last year's stunning defense returns almost fully intact. The departure of shortstop Matt Reynolds leaves some big shoes to fill, but Nichols (also a superb infielder) is expected to man the position on the days he doesn't pitch. One player calls third baseman and co-captain Mike Manning ia walli that no balls will get past, while catcher and fellow captain Andrew Collins has a cannon for an arm. Senior Matt Murphy at first base, is a veteran of the team when he stepped up to the plate last year because of injuries to his team mates. He as a accurate arm and a big swing. Also, Brian Farnkoff, in left field, will bring great athleticism to the field with both his desire and ability to come out on top. The team may be hurt by injuries to outfielders Brian Carthas and Nick Collins, but it's great depth will allow it to manage

until the two return.

The pitching will also be helped by an offense that should be in powerhouse form by the start of the season. After the season's first game and coincidentally, their first win, the heart of the order will consist of Farnkoff, Nichols, Manning, and Andrew Collins and Murphy as the clean-up hitters. With plenty of speed, consistency, and clutch-hitting ability, Coach Coleman can juggle this lineup any way he wants. As Farnkoff, an offensive star himself, puts it, "All nine kids can hit."

The team can also tick off intangibles on the championship checklist. This team is full of seniors, and a team loaded with seniors is a dangerous thing. In addition to the experience that comes with the territory, senior year is commonly recognized as the breakout year for most high school players. And the knowledge that this season is many players' last on the Wolfpack will make for a hungry team. Above all, a team needs chemistry, and this squad has plenty of it. Senior Carthas says that "everybody's close friends," and classmate Farnkoff calls it "a blast to be on the team."

After the firsttwo games the team has gained both confidence and comfort in their positions. They have already two wins including one impressive 7-1 victory over Weston in which senior Matt Murphy hit a diamond clearing double with the bases loaded. In a close game with Westford Academy, the Wolfpack came out on top in with a score of 3-2. Murphy scored the winning run and senior Andy Collins came out with the save after relieving McCarthy with the bases loaded and a full count. Nichols, Collins and Murohy have all both impressive showings and with games like these, you really couldn't ask for a better start to any season.

The season didn't start off this well, however. Because of flooding, they were forced to practice indoors in the school gym for the first two weeks of practice. Practice started at 6 pm because of schedling conflicts with the volleyball team and lasted until 8. Despite this, the boys are back outside and more ready than ever to keep the wins rolling in.

If a strong ace, a juggernaut offense, great defense, experience, intensity, and chemistry were meaningless, someone else might have a shot at winning the league. But, unfortunately for the rest of the DCL, that's the stuff champions are made of. So don't be surprised if you see the boys' baseball team in the state championship. it's just another part of spring.

Track Tromps

By LINDSAY CONLIN, I
Assistant Sports Editor

As the indoor season ends on a high note, the Boston Latin School Boys and Girls Outdoor Track team prepares for a spring of high expectations. Leading the team are senior captains Dee Owolewa and Aisha Cort as well as juniors Bridget Butler and Alexander Hanson. As is common in previous years, the team grows in size during the spring season. New events, especially field events, are included in outdoor as well as the addition of warm weather. This, however, can be a burden, particularly on days in which the temperature exceeds 90 degrees. The hot and stuffy urban air makes it difficult to breath and the lack of the Reggie Lewis Center makes practice for jumpers very difficult. “The school just doesn’t have the equipment so without the Reggie we rely solely on drills,” said senior jumping champ Erin Burke. Despite this, Erin as well as her fellow jumpers Thrisha Rose and Aisha will do fine under the instruction of coach Will McCullom. Head coach Tony DaRocha is as confident as ever in his league leading team. With the help of coaches Denise Pritchard and Alice Kramer, the team is sure to reach its League Championship status of last year.

As was true of the indoor season, both the sprinters and long distance runners are coming out strong this year. Butler as well as juniors Caroline O’Donnell and Orla O’Brien will lead the distance runners and Aisha, and juniors Tasheka Folkes and Jessica Porter are at the helm of the sprinting crew. Last year’s DCL javelin All-Star Liz Arias heads the throwers in another promising year, and junior Jill Masmela is showing All-Star prospects as well. The girls are looking forward to a repeat performance of last year and they are setting their hopes even higher. Since this is the coaches last season here, the team admits that they feel some pressure but are confident in their ability.

The boys are ceratinly not to be forgotten, however. It was size, not skill, that held the boys’ team back in the indoor season. With the addition of new competitors, the boys are ready for action as well. Junior captain Joan Duran leads the charge for a team that has been placing better and better with each passing season. Coaches have been eyeing junior new-comer James Duffy for the relay events, and the team is said to have an excellent 4X100 team ready to match the agility and speed it requires to compete in this relay.

Looking forward, there are many hurdles for the teams to overcome with fierce competition heating up the DCL. Still, with high hopes and the skills needed to succeed, both teams see nothing but smooth sailing for the future. .

Boys V-Ball “Set” For Season

By JIMMY SUN, III
Contributing Writer

Boys volleyball is looking to spike the competition at the onset of its new season. With the addition of a new coach, many new faces and a new outlook, this seems to be entirely possible. The team dominated the league last season with an impressive 13-5 record and earned a booth at the state tournament. However, only two members remained on the squad post-graduation. These two are senior Paul Hourihan and freshman Chris Lennon, this year’s captains. The other members of the Varsity include newcomers Noble Wong, Joey Coffey and Kishore Sanariya of Class I, Khanh Tran, Jason Chou, Tru Lang, Ernald Nicolas of Class II, and Class III members Kenny Wong and Jimmy Sun make up the rest of a promising squad.

New coach, Sean McMorrow, has great hopes for this team. He describes the team as having “great defense and a great base of talent to build upon...I’m looking forward to an exciting season in the very competitive DCL.” Assistant coach Huy Pham, the co-captain of last year’s varsity team, hopes that this year’s team can equal or better his previous 13-5 record.

The JV team also has a new coach, Enrique Irizarry. Several former JV members have returned to hone their skills with their new coach. They will be counted on to provide guidance for the young team, one that can only grow better and more skilled. Eddie Lau, another varsity member from last year, is also returning to help coach the JV. He was the starting outside hitter for last year’s team: he can be seen offering his wisdom and insisently heckling players to bump, set and spike correctly.

It promises to be a thrilling and competitive season as they continue to bear the proud tradition of tournament-quality volleyball at Boston Latin.

Tennis Makes a Racket

By KATHLEEN MEAGHER, II
Staff Writer

As the first few days of the spring sports season rolled along, the tennis team took the courts in close to below freezing temperatures. As the pre-season practices have been cut short by rainy weather and early sunsets, the team has found it difficult to find the time to compile a stable starting line-up. Another factor influencing the shakiness from the starting line-up is that the team is full of players who are on very close levels of play.

Battling it out for the top singles positions on the boys’ team are seniors and veterans Roger Kueny, Anthony Hamad, and Jeremy Jackson. For Coach Bill Kates, trying to sort out the doubles teams has been an even more challenging task. With freshman new-comer Karl Adams challenging for a spot at first doubles, 8th grader Jason Cramer, junior Qi Feng, sophomores Mike Kennedy, Yemi Osinubi and Glenn Ryan competing for the starting doubles positions, the courts have been filled with highly competitive challenges. As of the first couple matches of the season, the starting line-up for the team consists of Jeremy Jackson at first singles, Roger Kueny at second singles, Anthony Hamad at third. The doubles line-up has changed for every match thus far.. Still, says Qi Feng, “This is the last year our captains are going to be together and we want to win for them.”

As finalists in the State Championship last year, the girls’ team is ready for a repeat performance. The captains are Erin Fleming (II), Sara Redd (III), and Jenn Seide (III) who demonstrate their progress with each practice. Other members who are looking to contribute to the team’s efforts are Jana Bartoloni (II), Kasia Preneta (III), Gabriella Perez-Hobrecker (II) and Rohini Khouri-Ballal (III). Captain Jenn Seide says, “We are working hard to achieve the goals we achieved last year.” With the guidance of Coach Paulanne Kennedy, Junior Jana Bartoloni adds, “We are going to win the state championship this year.”

After the first four matches of the season, both teams are undefeated and on a roll with the boys’ team earning victories against B.C. High, C.M., and Brockton High School, and the first league match against Weston High School. The girls’ team also got off on the right foot by winning out of league matches as well as knocking off Weston. The two teams are looking forward to the rest of the season, with the boys anticipating close competition from Bedford High School and Concord-Carlisle and the girls looking for trouble from L-S and Concord-Carlisle as well. Both teams look forward to topping their respective leagues.

Full Sails Ahead

By GREG PORTER, I
Assistant Sports Editor

As the ice begins to thaw, the river fills with eager sailors ready for a brand spanking new spring sailing season. This season the team is again focusing on team racing. The general strategy for team racing involves not just physical, but mental skill. It is important for both the skipper and crew to be knowledgable of wind direction and speedand the river, as well as the rules and tactics of the sport. On each team three boats compete against three boats of the opposing team. Each boat contains both a skipper and crew. The object is for each team to place their three boats in winning positions through racing tactics and boat speed to end up with combinations of ten points or less. (First place receives one point, second place two points, and so on).

This season the team is headed by seniors Ann Nguyen and Lindsay Conlin and juniors Jesse Nemark-Rowse and Amanda Creedon. Other junior veterans include Coleman Flaherty and Amarley Quay as well as sophmore Caitlin O’Brien. Another difference in this season is a new coach. Elaine Parshal will be taking the helm as this year’s head coach. She has a very “hands-on” approach that is sure to benefit both the teams’ structure and skill. This slew of experienced sailors teamed with a new coach will surely lead the the league this year as they set their expectations high. “Many teams in the league have an excellent few, but none have the depth of widespread skill that this team possesses,” says Nguyen.

This year the team knows that they will have tough opponents to face, such as Brookline and Dover-Sherborn. But as the water warms up and the team begins practice, the neverending drills and starts will be put into play. So as forecasters are predicting a rainy spring this year, the sailing team sees only smooth waters ahead.

Sports Spotlight



Liz Arias

By ERIN BURKE, I
Sports Editor

“I think this is a really, really, really bad idea.” These words sputtered from Liz’s mouth a trillion times before she would finally concede defeat and allow me to write an article commending her many achievements as a member of the track team. On account of her extreme humility, Elizabeth Arias conceals a fact not commonly known: she is the school’s best athlete in the javelin event in track and field.

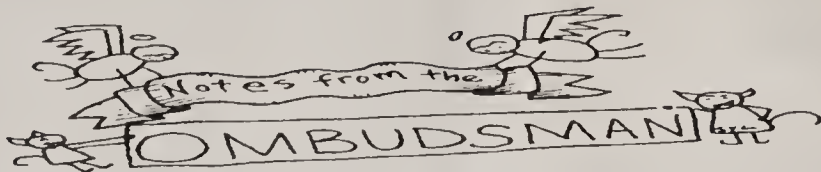
Liz joined the Girls Outdoor Track team six years ago as a seventh grader, and has been working her way up the ranks since. She quickly found comfort in throwing, and became one of the school’s top javelin throwers in her first two years of competition. During her ninth grade year, she impressed coaches and teammates by earning a berth in the state championship in the javelin. Sophmore year she not only qualified for the state meet for the second year in a row, but she went undefeated in all dual meets and beat out the competition as the DCL Champion. This victory garnished her the honor of a Dual County League All Star. As a junior Liz rode the wave of her success even further as she repeated her undefeated streak and triumphantly defended her title as best in the entire league. Now in her final year of competition, Liz is loking to go out on a high note. With daily competition from younger teammates yearning to fill the void when she leaves, she is constantly pushing herself further in practice. This intense training directly correlates to her performance on the field, and already it seems as though a third DCL Championship win is not out of reach. While talenteed in the javelin, Liz has also been a consistent performer in the four hundred meter dash, a feat not achieved by many throwers.

Besides track, Liz has also made an impact in other sports she has participated in throughout the years. From the eighth to the tenth grade, she was a versatile athlete as a member of the varsity swim team. In tenth grade she took up th esport of basketball and played junior vearsity and varsity for two years. Focusing exclusively on track this year, Liz has done so for practical reasons. Looking at her schedule, she has packed it on in a year that many people decide to take it easy. Her four, yes four, Aps include US History, English, French, and Calculus, some the toughest classes Boston Latin has to offer. In addition to these, she is enrolled in the honors class Humanities, so all in all, there is no down time for this scholar. Being able to balacne difficult schedules during her Latin career, and excel in athletics has been a trait unique to Liz, and a trait difficult to maintain.

When asked about what she would miss most about track next year, Liz repsonded, “Everyone on the team, especially the seniors, the coaches, and waking up at the crack of dawn, of course,” (sarcasm on the last part). Her college plans may include running track, depending on where she ends up. So far, she is forced to choose between such prominent schools as Boston College, Boston University, UMASS-Amherst, and McGill University. She might study business, but is not ready to write her major in stone. Liz owes her accomplishments to “Ms. Pritchard, Mr. DaRocha, and the other coaches...all deserve many thanks for their dedication through the years to the team...making a winning team and national champion out of kids who practice at the Fens is truly amazing!!” She would also like to thank her friends who have helped her on her path to successs.

“I will especially miss the people in this school who I may never see again, and I wish everyone luck and hope they enjoy the rest of the year.” It almost certain that everyone wishes the same on Liz’s future endeavors.

Argo Fun Page



By **DIEGO MCCAFFERTY, I**
OMBUDSMAN

In their infinite wisdom and... well, sheer desperation to fill space, the editors have essentially given Diego an entire page of the Argo. May God have mercy on us all.

Being the Ombudsman for the Boston Latin School Argo feels like being an aerobics instructor at a hospital for paraplegics. Nobody needs me. Nobody wants me. And I don't know why I'm here.

So, this month I decided to take a break from responding to the throngs of (non-existent) letters I get. Instead, and in the tradition of Bill Simmons...

...by the way, Bill Simmons, if you don't know, is THE comedic genius of our age. A sports-columnist from Charlestown, his work can be found at www.BostonSportsGuy.com, but I digress...

In the tradition of Bill Simmons, I've decided to keep a running diary of Final Friday. "What is Final Friday?," you might ask. Final Friday is the day when Argo staffers finish the production of the fine periodical you hold in your hands right now. Final Friday is the bane of all our existences. For no reason at all, we all find some sick sadistic pleasure in typing-for the Argo mind you-for like 8 hours. It's fun...like a colonoscopy, or dental work. So, let the freak show begin as... THE ARGO OMBUDS-GUY PRESENTS FINAL FRIDAY (a running diary).

We're live from the MacLab!...ok, no we're not. I'm writing this part hours later because I showed up late. But I'm sure nothing important happened...

3:00 — We start the day off with co-editor-in-chief, Andy Barr, yelling at me for being late. In typical Andy fashion, he tries to be a smartass and ask if at very least I can scribble words on a note-pad, to give off the impression that I might actually be doing work. I picked up a piece of paper and wrote "no." Ha, ha. For those scoring at home, it's Diego-I Andy-O!

3:11 — Things are getting fast and furious. Gummy worms are being eaten. Assitant editor Celia Ho just screamed "All the copy editors are asian girls!?". Greg Porter is scaring me. Johnny B. Greene is spelling the word "AFLAC" on pieces of paper with a stamp...I think I'm about to have a seizure.

3:17 — Things are being overseen by Mr. Gwazda, or "the Gwaz-manian Devil" as I've taken to calling him. He just yelled at me. Things are going poorly. Morale is down. Diego needs a hug...

3:42 — A&E editor Kaitlyn Jolly snaps, and tries to murder staffer Matt Erlich. Intervention becomes necessary, but luckily Matt is left only critically wounded [Editor's note: as of the time of this paper's printing, Matt is said to be doing much better. And the doctors say they have at least a 60% chance of re-attatching his eyes]

4:26 — Fatigue is setting in. Rose Costello has the "Troy-Aikman-seconds-after-getting-umpteenth-concussion" look on her face. The weak are dropping off, the troops are getting restless, but luckily we've just sent off for our first real snack-break...somewhere, a dove cries.

4:35 — Man Walk. Allow me to explain: Man. Walk. Not a man...can't Man Walk. 'nuff said.

Stress is relieved, we go back to work.

4:57 — The snack food just arrived, and the staff descended on it like carrion ants devastating a small South American village. I've seen Geena Davis sit-coms that lasted longer than that food.

I become a little disappointed at the exclusion of Red Bull in the snack run.

Red Bull, if you don't know, is perhaps the greatest thing to exist...ever. It is the elixir of life. I define my life in two periods: before Red Bull, and since Red Bull. It's a combination of Dimetapp and heroin, and should be fed intravenously to babies in the womb. Yet I digress...

5:07 — The staff seems rejuvenated by the food, and the propaganda-machine that is the Argo is chugging along at a decent rate.

5:20 — All the computers in the entire MacLab just froze. Panic ensues. Andy just passed out.

There's comedy, there's high comedy, and there's watching 2 dozen over-achievers having their computers shut-down...simultaneously. I almost wet myself.

5:38 — Andy wakes up in time for the computers to get fixed by the Gwaz-manian Devil. Go, Gwaz, go!

5:40 — Assistant editor (and part-time slave driver) Celia Ho delivers a speech with about as much compassion as the woman from *The Weakest Link*, as she officially dismisses the lower tier staff members for the day (you ARE the weakest link...Goodbye!). On the plus side, with the kiddies gone, the real insanity can begin!

5:41 — Andy Barr gets steamed and literally seperates me, Matt Erlich, and Greg Porter. The Argo's running behind schedule, and Andy's about as tense as a Palestinian at a Bris. Sheesh.

6:03 — Hardcore, nose to the grindstone time starts. It is at least 400 degrees in the MacLab. Everyone's angry. My mind drifts elsewhere...to the land of Red Bull. Ahhhhhh.

6:22 — Just wondering: what ever happened to Brian Pasco?

6:35 — A staff meeting is called to decide what we're going to eat for dinner. Tensions flare. Sides are taken, allegiances are formed. After much deliberation...pizza. With some salads.

6:52 — I have the following conversation with Assistant A&E editor Madeline Sedovic:

Me: ...hey, what's up?

Her (*deathly afraid*): Um. Nothing.

Me: *cough cough*

Her (*still afraid*):

Me: Yeah, so...

Her (*violently trembling now*): ...yeah

Me: See ya.

You can cut the sexual tension with a knife.

7:00-8:00 — Sweet relief in a meeting outside the confines of the MacLab. Upon realizing I have to go back, I attempt to stab myself with a pair of safety scissors. And almost succeed.

8:11 — Someone accidentally calls me "Devon". When no one's looking, I shed a single tear.

8:17 — "Mah nem is Joe nuh Birch, and ahm..." hahhahahaha, good times!

8:31 — mmmmmmm, Jessica Alba.....

8:46 — I just realized that my entire article is due by 9:30 for final copy editing. Let the panicking begin!!

8:46-9:37 — Manic typing. I actually faint TWO TIMES! Hve kno time to chek for grammer errors.

9:37 — Finish article. Find a corner. Curl up into a fetal position and weep.

Well, there you have it. A look into the whacky world of Argo staffers. Don't forget, we have positions available! Hahahahahahaha, please help me.

Please send any complaints or commentary to ombudsman@bbsargo.org. Because my time is a terrible thing to waste.



See hoof in mouth disease article on page 8. If that's not fun, what is?

Fun Argo Staff Photos!



Omigod! Andy's dead!



Jon, where can I get his number?



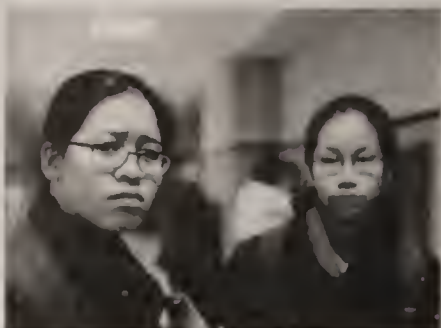
J.J. in headlights.



Jonah gives a lesson in being cool.



Not every picture can be a keeper....



Not all of the Argo is fun and games.

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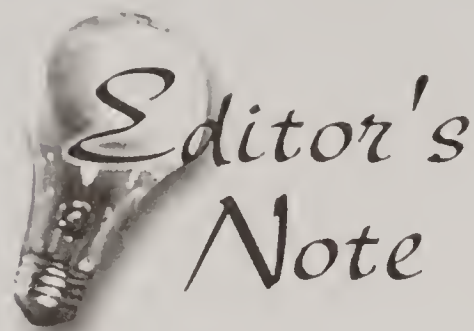
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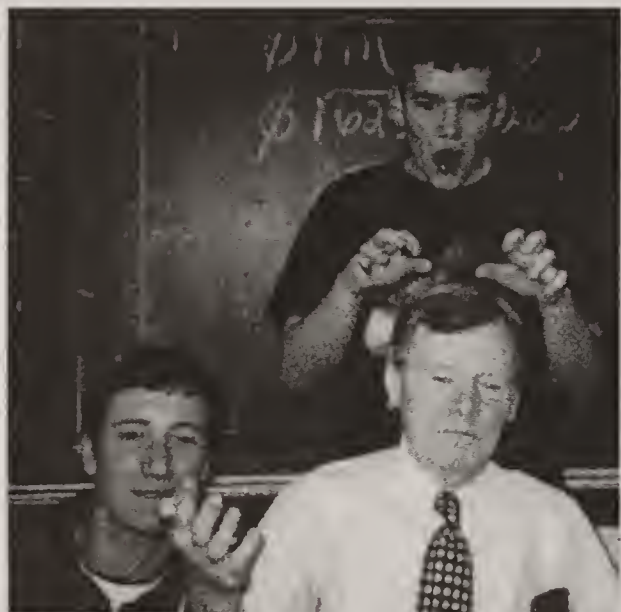
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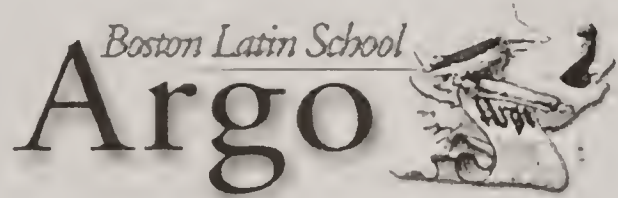
BECCA: Well, it's my last night of high school, and I am sitting in the stifflingly hot MacLab trying to get out a Graduation Issue. I do want to say, however, that being editor

Ask The Argo



Et Cetera

Visit the Argo on the Internet at: *www.blsargo.org*



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*Any questions about the
Argo should be directed to
Celia Ho, Editor-in-Chief,
2001-2002*

Jin Bin Liu, Y

Ms. Palmer

News

In-Depth Review Report Questions BLS Progress

By MEGAN FOUNTAIN, II & QI FENG, II
News Editor & Asst. News Editor

The Boston Public Schools' In-Depth Review Team recently evaluated Boston Latin School and delivered a highly critical report. The overall rating which BLS received was "2" out of "4," or "Some Accomplishment," which surprised the entire school community and rocked the pedestal of prestige upon which the school rests. The administration has leapt to defend our school's image and is adamantly opposed to the IDR's recommendations for change, but other members of the community see value in such constructive criticism.

The In-Depth Review Process is conducted in each Boston Public School every four years as part of Superintendent Payzant's Accountability System. The purpose of the review is not to rank Boston Latin against other schools in the system, but to rank how effectively Boston Latin has developed a vision and action plans for improvement. The review team, comprised of eleven "stakeholders" from outside of the school—including school officials, educators, alumni, and parents—used class visits, faculty and student interviews, and parent meetings as evidence in their investigation. They also reviewed the administration's Whole School Improvement Plan.

The In-Depth Review report initially commends BLS for "maintaining its tradition of excellence" in terms of the college preparatory curriculum, the 98%-rate of graduates attending college, the outstanding MCAS scores, the expertise of the faculty, and the supportive alumni association. However, the report finds BLS at the "emerging stage" of "aligning its whole school change process within the BPS Accountability System," and recommends compliance with the Superintendent's "six essentials" for improvement: Instructional Focus, Looking at Student Work, Professional Development, Best Teaching Practices, Resources, and Parent and Community Involvement.

The administration is frustrated because the IDR scale and rating system seem inapplicable to Boston Latin School. The High School IDR is used for every high school in the city; but BLS, a college-preparatory school, does not comply with the "general education" characteristic of other city high schools like East Boston High and Charlestown High, which received the maximum IDR score. The chairman of the History Department, Dr. Lambert, asserts that applying the same evaluation process to all the schools in Boston is like prescribing the same medicine to patients suffering from different ailments. Headmaster Kelley believes that aligning our school with system-wide rubrics means lowering our standards, and she forcefully declares that this will not happen: "I refuse to lower our standards."

The bureaucratic jargon which weighs down the IDR report is frustrating for parents and faculty. It is ironic that our school has only "Some Accomplishment" in a category called "Literacy Across the Curriculum," when the emphasis on analytical reading and writing skills is arguably the strongest part of a BLS education. One parent finds it ridiculous that for "Sustainability of Teaching Practices" the oldest public school received "Little or No Accomplishment": "Boy, that's a lot clearer! I guess 300+ years isn't much sustainability." For another parent, "the fact that the crown jewel of the school system has been labeled as 'mediocre'" drastically reduces the credibility of the IDR report.

Others, though, believe we should not let the prestige of our school be a buffer against all criticism. Parent Liz Zoob expresses frustration that she seems to be "the only parent who hasn't thought at times that BLS is resting on its laurels and its confidence that 'sumus primi.'"

The IDR report has a list of recommendations which reflect the voices of parents, teachers, and students. First, it says that the BLS's "approach to whole school change has not been developed and clearly communicated to faculty, student and parents." This rings true for Mr. Fernandez of the Science Department. He believes that there are some excellent teachers and isolated efforts of innovation that go on in the school, but there is no formal structure to sustain the work of these visionaries when they are gone, and there are no unifying goals which unite the faculty. Another one of the IDR's recommendations which deals with this concern suggests that the schedule allow more common planning time for teachers to communicate.

The IDR team suggests that BLS "reassess and publicize the selection criteria and process for enrollment in honors classes and the National Honor Society," and "expand the advanced placement offerings to every student willing to do the work." Mr. Power and Ms. Kelley jump to point out that BLS offers the most A.P. classes of any school in New England; but the complaint of the IDR team is that advanced courses should be "equitably realized among racial/ethnic groups, gender, income levels, and disabilities."

Diversity on all levels of leadership should be a priority for the school. Currently the Instructional Leadership Team, which directs curricular and structural changes in the school, is limited to administrators, department heads, two Boston Teachers Union representatives, and two parents. Only one member of the ILT is a person of color, and he does not hold an academic position. The IDR team wants to see racial diversity in the leadership team, and they also want to see more faculty and parent representatives on the ILT.

The IDR team finds the leadership of the school unreceptive and uncommunicative toward faculty. They recommend that BLS "open lines of communication" and "insure that all teachers who wish to have their opinions heard and valued in BLS decision-making processes can do so."

As evidence, Mr. Fernandez cites the school's sluggishness in response to his department's proposal for improving science education. He notes that even though 12 out of 14 science teachers have signed in favor of this proposal, "the administration is neither taking the initiative to work with [them] to explore implementing [it]... nor using [it] as a starting point to launch a dialogue regarding improving science education at the school." This, according to him, "shows poor educational focus."

The school received low scores in the area of parent and community involvement. It is true that BLS has large and active parent groups, including the Hispanic, Black, and Asian parent associations; but these groups formed of their own accord and are not attended by any members of the administration. Also, these minority groups rarely connect with larger school governing bodies and therefore have no power. The IDR asks BLS to "prioritize outreach to parents traditionally underrepresented by ethnicity or neighborhood and take proactive steps to include these parents in decision-making bodies" especially non-English speaking parents.

Alumni Gather at Museum

By MEREDITH GARRY, IV
Staff Writer

On the evening of May 11, the Skyline Cafe at the Museum of Science was packed. Alumni from graduating classes as early as 1941 to as late as 1998 gathered in the beautiful location while overlooking the sunset over Boston. Caterers with plates of hors d'oeuvres garnished with pansies weaved in among groups of conversing and laughing graduates.

Many of the alums were eager to share their memories, experiences and opinions. Grace O'Donnel, from the Class of '78, was a member of the first co-ed class to graduate after six years at the school. (The first two graduating classes only contained female b-sies). Ms. O'Donnel spoke of a certain teacher who was deadset against gender-integration. By junior year, the girls had won him over, especially since they were such good academic influences on the boys. Another interesting thing about her BLS experience was that she was on the track team, which consisted of three girls who practically coached themselves.

At around 7:30 a.m., Headmaster Kelley addressed the group. She jokingly remarked about the boys looking at the girls in Simmons College: their only view of women. She also joked about our superiority to Latin Academy (formerly Girls' Latin). She quoted Mr. Pitts, an alum, who commented about the integration, "I was finally able to find a date for the prom." Her speech elicited much laughter from the audience and in general seemed to increase the sense of unity among the group.

Edwin Kaplan, from the Class of '41, talked about Latin School much like a student might speak of it today. He said "[t]here were two types of teachers -

strict...and more strict." Although teachers today are definitely not as strict as they were in previous years, many teachers at BLS are notorious for their disciplinary fetishes. Mr. Kaplan also said that the challenging atmosphere led students to do more than they thought possible, much like today. He thinks that changing the Latin requirements from five years to four is a good idea, because the students need to learn about subjects such as modern technology. One thing Mr. Kaplan mentioned that has changed, is a spirit of camaraderie. During his years at Latin School, he said that he felt a sense of camaraderie with his fellow students. Today, however, that has changed, with many students aggressively competing over things such as rank and prizes.

George Maranis and Joseph Wishnow, both from the Class of '51, said that the best part about Latin School was graduating. Mr. Wishnow said that students don't appreciate BLS until they get out into the real world. He also felt that Latin School prepared him well for college and recounted an English class that he sailed through in college because the focus was on Shakespeare, which he had already learned at BLS.

The reunion appeared to be a huge success. Everyone had something unique and interesting to say, be it that "the smell is the same" or remembering Mr. Contompasis carrying around a drum bigger than he was as a student. All of the alums were very friendly and had the insight to share, some of which were particularly useful for surviving a Latin School career, or remembering why we have to learn Latin anyway. (The answer? Apparently, it helps your vocabulary, helps you to speak English properly, and teaches grammar.) All BLS students can anticipate an evening of reminiscing about high school with their old friends... after they first endure the six years of challenges here at the Latin School.

BLS Battles Stench

By HANA YOO, III
Editorial Board Associate

"WHAT is that smell?"

Students and staff alike have been wrinkling their noses in distaste at the putrid odor drifting about lately at BLS. It turns out that this problem can be attributed, like so many other nuisances, to the construction. The main building is presently getting a new roof, which involves working with tar. The outer layer of the roof is rubber, underneath which is the insulation, which covers the tar. This three-month process started about a week after April vacation, and will probably be done by late July if the weather is good, according to Mr. Flynn. There are eight sections of the roof, and each section will take about two weeks to do.

There have been efforts to reduce the stench. Exhaust fans have been put on the first floor near Room 104. Vents have been shut off so that there can be no air intake. Still, some fumes do escape the construction sites if the wind blows toward the building, or if the back door were open, the smells would come wafting in. Since there is no air conditioning in the school, many teachers open windows in the presence of unbearable heat. If the classroom happens to be in the vicinity of the fumes, a bad flow of air seeps in. Though the roofing tar does not contain toxins as street tar does, and is not damaging to our physical health, the smell is a major distraction to students from "the business of education".

Formerly, a "rotten eggs" smell pervaded the hallways of our school. This unpleasant odor of hydrogen sulfide, usually associated with stink bombs, came from Simmons College. The college was digging about 30 feet underground in order to build an underground garage and new academic

building for Simmons. Unfortunately, Simmons, like all the buildings in this area, is built on what used to be swamp about 150 years ago. Below the surface of the land lies ancient, rotted marsh. On April 27, about eight students had to go home because they felt sick as a result of the odor. They had symptoms such as nausea, eye itching, coughing, and headaches.

The City of Boston Health Department checked out the odor at Simmons when BLS requested it. They used instruments to test the air and measure the parts per million of hydrogen sulfide. Simmons measured only 0.1 parts per million. Federal regulations allow workers to work full-time when the there are up to 10 parts of hydrogen sulfide per million, which is considered a safe level. In comparison to these regulations, 0.1 parts per million seems very small. Though the standard may be sufficient for the workers, nevertheless it is clearly not for BLS students. On April 27, Simmons stopped the digging, and had a meeting with BLS and the Boston city officials on April 30. Until Simmons develops a detailed plan to significantly reduce the odor, there will be no more digging.

Besides the sulfur, students and faculty have been forced to deal with the smell of tar emanating from the roof. Fortunately, however, BLS has convinced the Suffolk Construction Company to stop all roofwork before 7a.m.

Mr. Flynn feels that "powerful odors can have the effect of increasing aggression and decreasing learning ability." Certainly, the smells are annoying, and perhaps even distressing for some people. On the bright side, now that Simmons has stopped construction for the time being, all we have to deal with is the tar smell. We can survive until the end of the school year.

GSA Succeeds in Opening Discussion Forum

BY REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wednesday, May 2, the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) students finally fulfilled a dream that they had held for years: opening up a discussion forum with BLS faculty about what can be done to make the school community more supportive for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and their allies. About 20 faculty members made an appearance at this meeting and made it known that they were committed to providing a safe environment for all students, with special attention given to this area. Many who could not attend the meeting had expressed their interest and support to Mr. Southwick, the club's faculty advisor.

Senior Douglas Le, known not as the President of GSA but as "the one who does everything," led and organized this discussion, which many students and teachers called "constructive and positive." He began by listing the two main functions of the GSA: to provide a safe community for students to talk about sexuality and sexual orientation, and to create and ensure a safe school environment for GLBT (Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender) students. "The reason for inviting teachers to come and talk about this," he said, "is that they can have a huge impact on how comfortable students feel at school."

He asked the group to define homophobia and discuss their understanding of the word. The consensus was that homophobia, which at one time implied a fear of homosexuals, has developed to mean hatred for homosexuals. People

who are homophobic feel that because they disagree with homosexuality, it is their right to harm people who are of that nature. Le went on to explain that the function of the GSA is not to convert people's minds, but rather to ensure the protection of GLBT students. "We cannot control people's beliefs, but we can try make sure that their hateful actions are controlled, and that here, no students are victimized for being who they are."

One teacher responded that while

stickers."

The aforementioned "Safe-Zone" stickers have been circulating in school for the past few years, and they decorate the doors of many classrooms. Another teacher noted that at one time he had been asked by an administrator to remove the sticker from his door because, as he was told, if some of the classrooms had these stickers and others did not, it would imply that not all of the classrooms are safe, as the administrator asserted that they most certainly are. The

teacher's response was, "ask the GSA students if all of the classrooms are safe."

Another topic of discussion at the meeting was the very nature of homophobia and why it occurs, particularly to the extent that it does in adolescence. One teacher expressed her view that the

to make homophobic remarks, while racial remarks are usually shunned. But the main concern seemed to be: how should we, as teachers and as students, respond to homophobia?

Several teachers expressed how difficult it is to respond in the right way at the right time. It is easy to scold or be sarcastic when an offensive remark is made, and in the meantime miss an opportunity to educate. A teacher commented that it is important not to "squash the life" out of a student who makes a comment that seems rude; that type of response can sometimes succeed in making the students more careful about what they say around you, but usually does not make them understand why what they said was hurtful. Another added that "teachers need to communicate that their classrooms are communities of mutual respect; there needs to be discussions in the classroom beyond the particular subject that is being taught."

"If at all possible, ethical values should be incorporated into the lessons," commented one participant. The students agreed with this attitude, and explained their view that while teachers should put "GLBT Safe-Zone" stickers in their classrooms, this action alone is not enough. Teachers need to explain in practical terms what the sticker means, and why they put it there. The honest and open dialogue that occurred between the GSA students and the supporting teachers is a model that many feel should be continued. Senior Rose Costello added, "If we want to ensure a safe and supportive community for all students, we need to invite all of the community, not just the students, to talk about how we can do that."



they cannot control people's beliefs, it is impossible to eliminate homophobia without challenging assumptions. "We need to talk fundamentally," the teacher said, "about how to educate students about homosexuality—all classrooms should have 'GLBT Safe-Zone'

uncertainty of sexuality among teenagers often makes them angry; "they define themselves," she said, "by putting down others." This insecurity, combined with misunderstanding, often leads to homophobia. She commented on how socially acceptable it is among youths

FTAA Summit

BY WAJIIHA AHMED, II
STAFF WRITER

From April 20th to 22nd, while most of us were enjoying April vacation, Quebec City was hosting the Summit of the Americas, which brought together all the leaders of North, Central and South America (except Cuba). The leaders sought to put the final touches on the Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement (FTAA), which will extend the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the entire Northern Hemisphere. Planned to be adopted no later than 2005, it will lift protective tariffs on imports and exports in the Americas, creating the world's largest free-trade zone. Critics of FTAA claim that, like the WTO, IMF, and WB, it is just another tool of capitalist globalization. According to the Peoples' Summit of the Americas, a congregation of environmental and labor groups met during the week before the Summit of the Americas. Their main concern is whether human rights will be ignored as FTAA protects the rights of corporations. The concern is legitimate, considering the fact that the only guests at the Summit were corporate executives, some having paid millions of dollars to sponsor the event. Corporate advisors were closely involved in all aspects of the negotiations, but there was not a single labor advisory group. The area of FTAA that has caused the most upheaval is the investor rights provision. Both NAFTA and the WTO greatly reduced the ability of governments to control foreign investment and increased protection of intellectual property rights. As a result, Pharmaceutical companies have been able to

attack emerging countries providing cheap non-trademark versions of extremely expensive AIDS drugs. Many protestors see this as putting profit before life.

NAFTA goes beyond most trade agreements in allowing private corporations to sue governments and demand compensation or law changes if they can persuade a panel of trade specialists that they have lost profits because of a government policy. For example, in the first case brought under NAFTA, the U.S. Ethyl Co. sued Canada for disallowing the use of a fuel additive that was already forbidden for health reasons in some U.S. states. The corporation claimed that Canada imposed unfair performance requirements on it. The company won, and Canada settled by paying \$13 million and retracting the law.

Critics also find NAFTA a failure on the labor front. There has been virtually no cleanup of the maquiladora zone of factories along the U.S.-Mexico border as promised.

So there they were, an estimated 45,000 protestors, stating the above and many other reasons for their disapproval of the summit. The turnout in Quebec was larger than expected, launching the battle over globalization to a new level. The protestors were not able to stop the summit, but scrimmages with police postponed the event by an hour. However, they did have a more important long-term effect; they focused on bringing more attention to an issue that most of us aren't even aware of. Global trade deals are now beginning to be judged on more than just whether they expand trade, but on how they effect democratic rights, and how they benefit the citizens of the country, not just multinational corporations.

AEDs Arrive at BLS

BY JIE SONG, II
STAFF WRITER

Rumor has it that Boston Latin School plans to purchase medical equipment called AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators), and that a certain Mrs. Putnam has purchased and billed BLS \$3000 without the school's permission. This rumor is not entirely false, for BLS is indeed planning to purchase these machines, but what claims to be the unwarranted dill is still an uncertainty.

The idea of buying AEDs for emergency treatment emerged quickly after the tragic death of John Yessayan. As new ideas disseminate, members of the BLS community, including Coach McDonough, soon became aware of this possible lifesaver. The first attempt of acquiring the machine, however, proved unsuccessful. Yet, this failure to purchase AEDs did not discourage the BLS community; rather, it led to a growth in enthusiasm. Soon, Ms. Barned-Smith, a BLS parent, presented over the listserv the idea of encouraging 35 parents to donate \$100 each to the acquisition of the AEDs. Immediately afterwards, many parents responded affirmatively. Ms. Barned-Smith, therefore, broached the matter before Ms. Kelley, who immediately and unequivocally stated, "Great, let's do it." Thus, the organized effort for the purchasing of the AEDs began. After setting up a money collection program on the listserv, Ms. Barned-Smith began to receive a steady income of donations. Meanwhile, another parent, Ines Masmela, searched for possible bargains and managed to strike a good deal with Meditronics Corp, who agreed to sell

BLS two machines for approximately the price of one. Currently, the donation program is running very well, and Ms. Barned-Smith has obtained close to the amount required to cover the expense for the two machines. Purchasing the machines, however, does not complete this ambitious project to upgrade the BLS healthcare equipment, for AEDs are not like over-the-counter drugs, easily accessible and easily operational; rather, not only does this machine need to be inspected and monitored by trained professionals, but its user must also be trained and certified by the Boston Emergency Medical Services.

During a recent conversation, Ms. Barned-Smith also addressed the rampant rumors. She states, "There have been rumors as usual. But the bottom line is that parents have been very generous and instantaneous in their support; the administration has been right there with them, and we have been taking a very spontaneous event and turning it into the disciplined process needed to be sure that all the requirements and needs in having these machines in the school are met." In describing the actual supportive steps taken by the administration, Ms. Barned-Smith outlines highly complimentary details, "Let me iterate, lest there be comment to the contrary, that Ms. Kelley and each of her assistants have been 150 percent supportive in this effort. Mr. Flynn offered, if necessary, to loan us the balance of the cost, beyond his own contribution, so that we could order the machines sooner than later." With these facts having been clarified, it is sincerely hoped that members of the Boston Latin School be more supportive rather than perplexed toward this thoughtful and generous act of the BLS parents and administration.

Budding Leftists Head to Cuba

BY CHRISTOPHER COLETTA, I
NEWS LAYOUT EDITOR

An adventurous and open-minded group of BLS students decided to shun the usual spring break destinations and instead make history, becoming BLS' first ambassadors to the controversy-clouted island of Cuba. Cuba is most misunderstood by the general public, with memories of the Cold War, the Missile Crisis, and Fidel Castro leaving a bad taste in the mouths of middle-aged Americans and stalwart conservatives (Tommy O'Malley).

However, this group of 24 juniors, seniors, and educators found in Havana, a music-filled and beautiful city filled with history, vibrant culture, and friendly people. We believe that our trip to the forbidden land is the first step to establish friendly relations with the Jewel of the Caribbean, simply by promoting understanding through dialogue. We had the time of our lives.

A series of sanctions that the Cubans call "el bloqueo" are imposed by the United States that inhibit trade and investment, as well as limit travel. U.S. nationals can only reach The Republic of Cuba by making a layover in a third country, in our case- Canada. We made fun of Canadians on the bus trip to Montreal to pass the time - a grueling 11 hours.

Upon arrival in Cuba, the presence of government officials at the airport dressed in olive garb and bearing the red star made us ill at ease. At no point during the trip, however, were we made to feel unwelcome, despite our being from the country that they blame for their economic woes.

We spoke with many Cubans on our trip - bus drivers (Jorge was the man!), university professors, peddlers in the flea market, and more - all who were grateful for the benefits and opportunities that the Revolution has brought them. Their chief complaint was that the American economic blockade has made recovery from the 1989 fall of the Socialist Bloc an impossibility.

Despite their \$7 a month salary, the Cubans still find a way to have fun. The beaches, dancing, music, the architecture all reflect Cuba's European and African roots, and combine to form the culture that millions of tourists experience yearly. Nightclubs are a huge part of that experience, and thanks to Sherar, we white boys didn't look like idiots on the dance floor.

A highlight of our visit to Cuba was a playoff game we saw at the Estadio Latinoamericano. It was Havana's Industriales versus the Vegueros (literally, "Tobacco Farmers") from Pinar del Rio. We inadvertently sat behind the opposing team's dugout among a small but very vocal pocket of Pinar del Rio fans, and we soon began cheering for the Vegueros ourselves. Dressed in our authentic Vegueros jerseys that we bought off

of one of the third basemen, we argued with the drunken Industriales fans over a call at second amid cigar smoke, pounding conga percussionists, and thousands of screaming baseball enthusiasts. It was the best \$1 we've ever spent.

A visit to a hospital, where children victims of the Chernobyl power plant meltdown were being treated, brought us a great feeling and tons of laughs - mostly at Jonah's attempts to do a back flip. Cuba one of the best healthcare systems around, and it is the only country to voluntarily treat more than a handful of foreign victims of nuclear disasters free of charge, both from the Ukraine and Argentina. The kids danced for us, and we ended the day with a game of baseball.

I loved Cuba's National Literacy Museum, dedicated to the literacy campaign of 1961 that educated nearly 4 million Cubans, mostly farmers in the backcountry. 270,000 altruistic instructors, whose average age is 16, were permitted by their families to travel all over the Caribbean's largest island - a testament to the people's overwhelming support

of the revolution and its program despite the dangers. Dozens of these courageous teachers died at the hands of counterrevolutionaries, some tortured or even horribly disfigured. The Museum houses their memorials, as well as over 700,000 letters written to Fidel Castro, one of the ways they proved they could read and write. Most thanked him and wrote that they were happy they could read and know the truth.



One 86-year-old farmer wrote simply, "Dr. Fidel Castro, I love you much."

The trip to Cuba brought a welcome despite from school, but more importantly provided an alternate prospective on life. The island is an excellent case study in economics, race relations, and government, as well as a beautiful vacation spot, and it is hoped that more Latin School trips there can be possible in the future.

A special thanks to our friends at Umass Boston, Common Ground Travel Agency, and especially Mr. Steve Fernandez and professor Sarah Teasdale, for putting their lives on hold and their jobs on the line to make the trip possible.

Thanks to Yasmin Peña for contributing to this report. Material from The Bangor News was used in this report.



Greece Exchange

BY ERIN O'KEEFE & COLIN SMITH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

As the sun shines brighter with each passing day, students dream about trips to the beach, graduation parties, and countless hours relaxing outside the confines of the school. With encouragement from my fellow Greek II student Colin Smith, I decided to embark on the journey which has provided me with the most profound experience of my life.

Greek Summer was only an idea in my mind as I boarded the flight to Greece with 28 other high school students from across the nation. Encouraged by Colin's description of a summer filled with watermelon and feta cheese, as well as village cafés and traditional dances, I stepped off the plane to be enveloped in an intercultural exchange that I just can't seem to get out of my system.

As I strolled through the halls of BLS during my senior year, softly humming the words to a Greek song that I didn't quite understand, the full impact of Colin's words finally began to sink in. Greek Summer is an amazing five weeks in an amazing country amongst amazing people; my experience that summer was, quite frankly, amazing. A teacher has yet to communicate to me all that I learned on my own that summer. In language classes, I have never been told that the language barrier between nations is paper-thin, and that with a simple hand-gesture or a warm smile, that barrier can be broken. Not once in a history class or through U.S. media have I heard that Greece allied with Turkey during the Kosovo crisis and greatly resented American intervention. Nor have I ever laid eyes on the conception of truly ethnic Greek cuisine on any American cooking show; watermelon and feta cheese is surely a combination even Todd English would sample with reluctance.

Although my own amazing experience came to a tearful end when all the participants went our separate ways, a part of my heart will always remain in Greece, alongside those of the men and women who came before me.



Even though I know that in time I will inevitably lose contact with the teenagers and Greek host family with whom I shared those five weeks of laughter and learning, I will always have my memories. Those will not fade with time or distance. Colin, who was the one to encourage me, advises students to heed this opportunity. Academia is your opportunity to dapple, but real life experience is where you get the chance to taste and savor. The best of luck goes to Jonathan Smalls, who has the privilege of following in Colin's and my footsteps.

Nova Scotia Exchange Program

BY GLEN RYAN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I first found out that I had been chosen to take part in an exchange program, my mind became flooded with various ideas of grandeur. Since I hadn't the slightest clue concerning even the most basic details, I satisfied my yearning curiosity with any farfetched dream that would mysteriously creep into my crowded mind. I began to examine various invented possibilities for the destination of my educationally bound journey. I saw myself lazily lounging about on a tropical beach, watching my feet slowly sink into the pearl white sand. I imagined myself intensely exploring, in an educationally casual manner, the absolutely astounding rock formations of deserts in Utah. Whatever it was that my indescribable imagination concocted, I surely didn't consider that I might be traveling to yet a colder region of the world.

However, I soon enough knew that nine of my "distinguished colleagues" and I, as Mr. Fulton continually reiterates, had been chosen to participate in a life-changing experience. The ten of us were embarking on an unpredictable venture to the luscious, somewhat sandy, very temperate beaches of Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Maple Leaf Program, as we would all be very familiar with, is a unique international exchange program between the United States and Canada. This program is designed to help create a mutual understanding between the younger generations of the very different cultures, traditions, economies, and governments of these two adjacent nations. The benefactors hope that through physical experience in another region of the world that the program will allow for more firsthand, permanent, concrete, and enjoyable learning. Finally, this wonderful program wishes that the

participants could establish indestructible bonds through this experience, which would carry on throughout their lives.

The Maple Leaf Program has allowed us to experience entire worlds that we might have never seen otherwise. In Vancouver, located in Western Canada, we were privileged enough to see the illustrious waterfall laden mountains, the effortlessly soaring bald eagles, the cool, passive, serene waters, and the beautiful and elaborate architecture of the Parliamentary building. The following year in Halifax, Nova Scotia, located in Eastern Canada, we were equally lucky as we experienced the rich culture, tradition, history, the government building, the rich seaboard, and once again the astonishing scenery. Furthermore, beyond the irreplaceable educational benefits of these two expeditions, we experienced firsthand the lives of other individuals. These personal experiences have left us not only with entirely

new perspectives on things, but also with cherished friendships that we intend on continuing throughout our lives.

Over the last two years I have undergone many changes in my life, and many of them I could do without. However, my experiences from my traverse across Canada, with nine of the greatest people I know, have left me completely in awe at these amazing cultures. I've seen two completely different worlds - and I don't mean that I've merely stood back and observed them - but I've fully experienced them. I've gained memories that will be with me forever. I've interacted and befriended people that I would never have had the chance to. Through this unique, unrivaled program, I have certainly gained something inexpressible, but more importantly, irreplaceable. My experiences and my memories with the Maple Leaf Program have drastically influenced me. Now I view them as they should be, entirely priceless.

SWANC Marks Depression Awareness Day

By CATHERINE ANDERSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

May 8 was National Childhood Depression Awareness Day. The Students Working for a New Community and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) worked together to have speakers in the Black Box Theatre speaking about depression as a disease. Katie Eves, director of the Massachusetts NAMI, gave some basic background information about depression. Student volunteers Hana Yoo (III), Antonius Wiriadjaja (I) and Jeremy Jackson (I) bravely spoke about their own experiences with depression, and how the disease affects their lives.

Niora Fabian (II), who attended the presentation, said she didn't expect the students to be speaking so openly about their personal experiences, and that she admires them

for being able to share again and again about something so difficult. Many students seemed to agree with her and approached the speakers to thank them. "You could tell we were really getting through to some of the students," said Katie Eves at the end of the day. "By the looks on their faces, you could see we were getting through."

Not all of the students in the school were able to see the presentation, because of the size constraints of the "Black" Box Theater. However, members of the SWAN Community put up signs around school so that people who couldn't attend would at least be aware that it was going on. The intention of the day was not to have everyone learn everything there is to know about depression, but to have lots of people learn a little and be more comfortable with the idea of depression as a real disease, not something to be ignored or avoided as a topic of discussion. The main theme of the day was that

depression is fairly common and highly treatable, but often misunderstood because of the stigma that a person with depression must be "screwed up," or should just "get over it" on his or her own.

Another aspect of the day was the green ribbons, which were passed out at the Black Box Theater. The ribbons were for people to wear not only to show support for people with depression, but also to show that they are available to talk to, or can help depressed individuals get help.

National Childhood Depression Awareness Day was the first time, at least in this senior's six years at BLS, that there was an event dedicated to learning about depression and suicide at the school. Hopefully, the students and teachers who participated will be a little better educated about how to help one another with this ailment, which affects the daily lives of so many close to us.

Double Take-Homeless Volunteer Organization

By LIZ ARIAS, I & VICKY CATALDO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

If you were to picture a homeless person, what image comes to mind? Have you ever been stopped by a homeless person and felt awkward in simply handing over your spare change and walking away? These two sentiments merged to form a club at our school called Double Take, a volunteer group affiliated with the Horizons Initiative, which focuses on those often forgotten in the wake of homelessness, children.

In 1999 alone, 35,000 households were homeless in Massachusetts. This figure represents approximately 60,000 men, women, and children, which is larger than the population of Brookline or Holyoke (and only reflects the number of people who actually sought emergency shelter.) Parents and children make up 58 percent of Massachusetts' Homeless population. Statistics show that the problem is only increasing. Since 1990, the number of homeless families has increased by 112 percent.

These figures may mean little to you, but the fact remains that approximately 21,000 children – half in preschool and half of school age – are homeless. Adults of families who are able to secure housing in temporary shelters oftentimes spend their time searching for jobs, permanent housing, and attending workshops. Seeing the importance and need for children to play, take part in activities, and focus on homework, the Horizons Initiative opened several play spaces in shelters in and around Boston. After a brief orientation, volunteers are stationed.

We were placed at Brookview House, a location in Dorchester. Brookview is a transitional home for mothers with school-aged children, where the women are able to broh work outside the house and live in small apartments within the complex. Our role becomes essential when moms are out doing their shopping or taking one of the many training and counseling programs offered at Brookview. As volunteers, we work in the house's play space, where we are able to tutor the children with their homework as well as placing an emphasis

on creative recreational activates with them in a program called Above and Beyond. Now that the weather is warmer, we are able to take the energetic kids outside where there is much more freedom and a playground to have fun in. The two hours spent at Brookview each week are very rewarding, for both the volunteers and the children, as seen recently at their biannual Appreciation Night, where the kids expressed in their own words that they truly get something out of our work with them.

If you are interested in making a difference in the community-at-large and have two hours each week to spare, contact Mr. Aversa, the Double Take advisor. Next year, new volunteers are needed to fill the shoes of the present departing seniors. Any juniors or seniors are welcome to join (you have to be at least 16 years old.) Whether it's because you have a few hours each week to spare, would appreciate a rewarding experience, and/or are exploring possibilities for community service hours; you will find that your time will be well spent and can make a difference.

Living Wage Protests Rock Harvard Campus

By ADAM FINELLI, II & THEODORE KUTTNER, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The problem of a living wage for Harvard University's subcontracted employees has been an issue for many years. In general, according to a *USA Today* poll, the lack of living wage jobs is the most serious problem facing communities today. Since 1979, Harvard University has had trouble providing its blue-collar employees with a substantial wage, giving one insufficient for comfortable living in the Boston area. The city of Cambridge, whose wage of \$10.25 per hour for its blue-collar employees has served as a model for the Harvard demonstrators, has had no trouble in providing for their workers.

Three years ago, the Living Wage Campaign was formed at Harvard in order to establish a dialogue between the Administration and the student body. The workers themselves, deprived of strong representation and unions, and threatened with the risk of losing their jobs, were taken under the wing of the students. There was hardly any progress; occasionally, minimal raises were being offered to small numbers of workers, but nothing substantial. As a result of what demonstrator Adams Rackes called a failed "dialogue", one which saw no clear change in the near future, the campaign decided to take direct action and make their demands clear.

On Wednesday, April 18th, about 50 Harvard graduate and undergraduate students quickly occupied Harvard's Massachusetts Hall, thinking that a sit-in would last at most a couple of days. With careful plans and a daily agenda, students began to grow strong roots in the community. They immediately contacted the media for publicity, friends for support and food, and most importantly, they secured the bathrooms. Once they were able to open a previously clogged artery of communication, efficient negotiation with the administration began. Workers in Massachusetts Hall still came in and out of their jobs, and the students respectfully and peacefully tended to their business. Everyone from the Mayor Menino to Cambridge natives Ben Affleck and Matt Damon came to show their support. The faculty wrote a letter to President Neil L. Rudenstein, later printed in the Boston Globe, vouching for a living wage and showing their support for the students' actions. And for three weeks, the Harvard Yard was the scene of peaceful action and festive rallies. On day 17, Ted Kuttner and I visited the Harvard campus to find out more about the cause and demonstrators.

Day 17

Arriving in Harvard Yard, the tent city was the first image which set the scene for the demonstration. Tents lay across half of Harvard yard, and clothe-lines stretched from tree to tree hung flyers which announced events. Handouts and essays were drifting on the ground, having blown from a pavilion set up to supply the general public with information about the Harvard Living Wage Campaign. A giant drawing portraying cartoonish aristocrats sitting on a treasure chest and munching on mounds of food leaned up against an information table. The chest was being held up by small workers who were sweating and hunched over from the weight of the chest. This and a sign that said "Workers can't eat prestige" were the only traces of angst in the peaceful, informed, and intellectual environment. Buckets, Djembe drums and megaphones sat on the floor for later use during the nightly performances and rallies.



Harvard students, Adams Rackes and Steven Smith engage in sit-in

In order to speak to Adams Rackes, a student demonstrator, I had to ask one of the many cops to lean in the window and call for Adams. Massachusetts Hall had been roped off by thin string in order to show the necessary three-foot clearance space around the building. Only the cops could go past the string to pass messages or food on to the demonstrators inside the building. Other rules included no passing of objects from the outside into the hall; all food and supplies had to be passed on by officials or cops. Any student could leave the building, whether it was for exams, homework, or the stress of being inside for more than 9 days, but no one could enter the building (aside from Massachusetts Hall workers); once you decided to leave, you could not go back. The walls of Mass Hall had been plastered with signs and

posters, one of which read "Why is there poverty at the world's richest university?"

The interview with Adams, accompanied by the thoughts of other demonstrators leaning out of the windows, began with asking whether or not the students saw the problem being solved in the near future. The general attitude among the students was that there was a near resolution, and that is what kept them going from day to day. "There is nothing radical about our demands," stated Stephen Smith, one of the leading organizers of the sit-in. "This is a campaign for human rights." The most important thing to the students was fixing the problem and getting out of there. As tempting as the joy of civil disobedience was, the prime objective was to earn the wage and establish an efficient dialogue with the administration.

Along this subject, Ted and I asked whether or not all students occupying Mass Hall were informed and taking meaningful action. "Many people accuse us of not being informed" replied Adams, but he asserted that all students occupying Mass Hall were taking part in the planning. During the daily meetings, he explained, all were fully tuned in and cognoscente of the exact nature of the problem. Adams gave us a run down of the two groups taking part in the sit-in. The outside group, the tent city, organized rallies and performances, was mainly in charge of keeping the public informed, provided information about how anyone could take part, and was comprised of community activists supporting the students in any way they could. The occupants of Mass Hall were in charge of holding daily meetings, maintaining the Living Wage website, and keeping contact with their resources via phone and e-mail.

The largest problem they saw in the future was exams; President Rudenstein issued a statement declaring that no exams could be given to the student demonstrators.

Day 21.

The sit-in ended. Both sides claimed they had won in a way. The administration got the students out of Massachusetts Hall without granting them the \$ 10. 25 rate which they had requested for workers. On the other hand, the students were promised a committee comprised of students, faculty, and workers which they hope will negotiate a fair wage in less than a year. Both the administration and students have made their concessions, but the campaign to win a living wage for Harvard subcontracted employees continues.

For more information, visit the Harvard Living Wage Web site at <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~pslm/livingwage/>

Forum

Erin Burke & Greg Porter

Sex Offender Registries: Necessary Safeguard or Unconstitutional Invasion?

BY ERIN BURKE, I
SPORTS EDITOR

You and your family decide to go over and greet your new neighbor who has moved in next door. As you introduce yourself and your daughters to your neighbor, you conclude that he seems charming enough. You walk away from his house feeling relieved that such a pleasant man moved into your community. What you fail to realize is that the man to whom you have just exposed your daughters has been deemed a threat to society, and consequently punished: you have just had an encounter with a convicted sex-offender.

To help inform towns about sex offenders living nearby, many states have enacted community notification legislation, which requires released sex offenders to register with their local law enforcement agency. On May 17, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a law that required states to establish community notification systems in order to inform neighborhoods that a convicted sex offender has moved into their area. This was a harsher version of New Jersey's "Megan's Law," which was passed in 1994 in response to the rape and strangling of a seven-year-old girl. The felon? A neighbor who had been twice convicted of sexually assaulting children. Many people, including Megan's parents, believed that her death could have been prevented had they known a convicted sex offender was living in their community.

Statistics show that 61 percent of violent sex offenders have a prior record and 28 percent of released rapists are re-arrested within three years and charged for a new violent crime. These statistics encourage the belief that sex offenders are likely to commit serious crimes again. Released rapists were found to be 10.5 times as likely as previous non-rapists to be arrested for rape. Those who serve time for sexual offenses are found to be 7.5 times as likely as those convicted of other crimes to be re-arrested for a new sexual assault. With the overcrowding of prisons, eight out of ten rapists are released prior to trial, placing them back into society with the exact same deficiency that had them arrested in the first place. Community registrations and notifications allow the public to be aware of a potential danger lurking in their neighborhood.

Registries also aid the police force within a certain area, as they are able to better focus on a problem in order to prevent a festering of it. For example, if someone notices that a known child molester is employed at a day-care center, that may be a "red flag" to a future conflict. The basis for these community notifications is centered around the concept of prevention. With such a heinous crime of child molestation, or any other sex crime, sensitivity arouses around every possible way to prevent any other occurrence. With more eyes in a community on a man convicted of a sex crime, that man may be less likely to commit that crime again.

Registries are necessary to keep a community aware of potential dangers entering their neighborhood. While one may state that constitutional rights are violated with such registries, it is equally valid to declare that rapists and molesters do not deserve these constitutional rights. A convicted sex offender has committed a crime against a soul that leaves a deeper scar than any act of violence with a weapon. A person convicted of a sexual offense should be punished for that act for the rest of his life, for that is how long his victim will be forced to live in emotional ruin.

Besides spending moonlit nights on the beach with her lover Colin Smith, Erin Burke enjoys saying the word copulation.

BY GREG PORTER, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

"...nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law..."

What you have just read is part of the 5th amendment of the United States Constitution, the part where we the people are guaranteed the right to not be convicted of the same crime twice; a.k.a. double jeopardy. But why is it that just because a crime is placed in a category which is despised by the public, those people who have committed a sex offense merit total disregard of this right?

In Massachusetts, as in many states now, convicted sex offenders must register their names at their local town halls even after they have already been punished and served their time. This information is then made available to the public and encourages neighbors of the former sex offender to form prejudices and try to isolate this person from their lives. All of this because of a mistake a person made in the past.

Don't take what I am saying the wrong way. Any person convicted just once of a sex crime should, in my opinion, be locked up for a long time. But they also deserve a second chance. It seems to me that this forced registering of names falls under the category of double jeopardy. They have been convicted criminally and after they get out, again they are convicted

socially and personally. That is double jeopardy.

This also brings to mind the question as to why only sex offenders are the ones forced to register their names. Why is it that we feel these types of crimes are the ones most likely to be repeated by the same person? I say, if they are going to make sex offenders register their names, what about car thieves or those convicted of physical assault?

The double standard here is so blatant, and yet there is no reasoning for it. Is there some statistic that shows that convicted sex offenders can never be rehabilitated? Why must this group of people suffer the consequences of their mistake for the rest of their lives, while people committing other types of crimes can be convicted, serve time, repeat the same crime, be convicted and serve again, and come out of jail without the public having any knowledge of their history?

Basically, what I am saying is that it is not anyone's business what you have done in your past as long as you have served your punishment. Do we show all of our neighbors our personal records? No, but I'm sure if we were forced to reveal our past, many people in society would be looked upon very differently. No one wants their past revealed, so why should we do it for sex offenders?

As I see it, this law is blatantly breaking the Constitution with no real reason or justification as to how government is allowed to enforce this registration. I am a believer that once you are convicted of a crime you lose all rights, but after you serve your time, you still should not be treated like a criminal. We all make mistakes, but for the majority of us, mistakes of the past rarely follow us through life. This is not the case for those who made the mistake of committing a sex offense. If this law is allowed to stand, I believe it is going to set a dangerous precedent for the future. If they can bend the rules for one crime, what's stopping the government from branding other ex-cons? Pretty soon, one mistake could cost you your reputation for life. We need to uphold the Constitution as close to its original form as possible to ensure our individual protection in the future as citizens, ex-con or not.

LOYALTY

Forum Question

The issue of sex offender registries has always been hotly debated. Some argue that they are necessary to the safety of neighborhoods, especially those with children, while others say that such registries are blatant violations of the Fifth Amendment and constitutional rights. The Argo asked a cross-section of BLS students what they thought of sex offender registries.

"I think it's good, because I wouldn't want my children living in a community with a sex offender."

—LaToya Tavernier, I



"It's a good thing, because if a person has done something once, they can do it again."

—Eileen Velasquez, II

"I think it's a good idea to release the name of any criminal that was in jail."

—Sara Redd, III



"I guess it's kind of fair for people to know if a convicted rapist is living right next to you."

—Simon Eisenberg, IV

"I think it's a good thing because if there's a problem with the sex offender, you understand their issues."

—Aisha Okeanawi, V



"Yes, because it acts as a deterrent to prevent people from committing these crimes."

—Mikhail Rekun, VI

Misconceptions About Cuba Muddle Picture

By JONAH BIRCH, I
FORUM EDITOR

With all of the misconceptions about Cuba, the valid criticisms of El Comandante en Jefe's island nation get lost for its defenders. The misconceptions are many and varied: that anyone who dares criticize Fidel is immediately thrown into jail, and that there is no internal criticism of the government; that tens of thousands of people each year attempt to flee Fidel's repressive regime; that AIDS patients are locked up to keep them from spreading their disease; that there is no democracy in Cuba. None of these are correct. However, Cuba does face numerous problems and issues, and it is important that these are fairly addressed. A recent trip to Cuba sparked my own interest in addressing both the misconceptions and the valid criticisms of Cuba.

First, about the political prisoners: according to the CIA, the Vatican, and the New York Times, there were 300 Cubans in jail for political crimes in 1999. The government had promised to release 106 within two years, and as a sign of good faith, immediately released 26. Second, in 1999 about 3,500 people had attempted to leave Cuba: about 1 out of every 3,335 Cubans. This is a high jump since the 1980s, because the economy collapsed after the fall of the Soviet Union and there began the "special economic period" that has continued until today (more on this later). Thus, it is economic and not political reasons that caused the Cubans to leave. But why does the Cuban government attempt to stop people from leaving Cuba? The Cuban government responds that they paid for these people to grow up. The government paid for their health coverage, food, guaranteed them housing, and paid for many of them to attend universities. In return the government asks that these people use their skills to help build the struggling Cuban economy, and help the Cuban people.

As for the AIDS patients, the Cuban government did lock up AIDS patients in the early 1980s when the epidemic first came out. According to both the Cuban government and my anti-Castro Cuban friend Alessandro, the government now relies only on its superb medical system to prevent AIDS from spreading (Cuba has only 3,000 cases of HIV/AIDS currently).

Finally, there is the democracy and internal criticism in Cuba. Certainly, Cuba has limited democracy, in that only lower level politicians are fully democratically elected (for upper level politicians like Fidel there is an indirect election). But there is internal Communist Party criticism in Cuba, and there is no domination of the electoral process by wealthier Cubans, as there is in the United States. Thus, common Cubans have a political voice far beyond what most Americans have. In this respect, there is perhaps greater democracy in Cuba than in the United States.

And yet, through all of these misconceptions, there are certainly valid criticisms of Cuba. Many of these were addressed in a conversation I was involved in with a Cuban man at a Yoruban music concert in Havana. "Man, in the United States, they tell you the truth. If you

rich you got everything. If you poor, you don't. Here, they lie to you. They say we got socialism, but really, no." In 1989, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Cuba lost its greatest source of aid in dealing with the crippling U.S. embargo. Between 1990 and 1993, the GDP of Cuba dropped 35%. The government's response was the allowance of small-scale capitalistic enterprises, especially in the tourist industry. Thus, inequality was reborn in Cuba, and with it, all the negative aspects that it brings: more crime and more police officers, more friction within Cuban society, and perhaps most importantly, greater racism in Cuba. This was the topic of a long discussion we had in Cuba with two Cuban anthropologists, who talked about the race differences that class differences breed, with whiter Cubans becoming wealthier than darker-skinned Cubans. The government's decision to end the state monopoly within the economy can be criticized. It has brought back many of the problems that Cuba was previously immune to. However, it has helped rebuild the struggling Cuban economy, to a point much closer to the 1990 level.

Furthermore, the Cuban government has done a poor job handling the economy. As one Cuban said "The medical and the education are great, but everything else is no good." The state of housing in Cuba is not good, especially in the areas away from the view of tourists. One of my friends went into a Cuban apartment in downtown Havana, and described the apartment as "decrepit." And the food supply is very limited. Our friend at the Yoruban concert said, "How can you live like this? I get seven dollars (140 pesos) a month for food." With the government's food voucher program this is enough to buy the necessities like beans, cooking oil and rice, but allows little in the way of luxury items such as meat. Mostly these economic problems come



from the U.S. embargo which not only stops Cubans from trading with the United States, but also forces the government to exchange the many dollars it receives from tourists into other currencies to trade, thus losing many dollars during the exchange process. But they can also be tied to poor economic decision-making by the government, especially in the agricultural sector, where the decisions on what to plant, how to grow, and where to collectivize the farms have been disasters.

Perhaps the greatest accusation that can be leveled at the Cuban government is that there is too much bureaucracy in Cuba. The decision-making seems too top-down, with too little local control economically and politically. This bureaucratization seems to be stifling younger Cubans especially, who seem to be much more critical of the Cuban government than their parents who remember the days before Fidel. What is most important is that there is an honest debate on what is right and what is wrong with the Castro regime in Cuba. There are many misconceptions in the United States of Fidel and of Cuba, and these seem to prevent any real debate on what they have done poorly. The anti-Castro fervor of Americans does not match the reality of everyday life in Cuba, and as long as Americans fail to be fair in their discussion of Cuba, we will fail to have any real influence on the policies of the Cuban government.

U.S.-Sino Relations Turn Volatile

By STEPHEN DEWEY, III
STAFF WRITER

With the fall of the Soviet Union and the accompanying decline of Russia from world importance, it appeared for nearly a decade that the United States would continue into the indefinite future as the world's only superpower. A new world order based on economic power and influence would ensue, since the American determination to police the world would render nearly all wars largely unproductive and economically damaging. This would lead to a universal acceptance of democratic principles, ultimately resulting in a world of republics and democracies loosely governed by the United Nations. However, in a world riveted by political, economic, historical, racial, and national divisions, such hope appears to have been entirely wishful thinking. Hence, the 21st century begins with damaged U.S.-Sino relations, and little hope for a quick remedy. How badly such relations are damaged, however, depends on to whom one talks.

Under the Clinton Administration, our diplomacy with regard to China attempted to reconcile our differences and move toward greater country-to-country trade and, hopefully, toward greater democracy in the future. Although our collective good-will occasionally went too far (recall the Clinton/Gore nuclear weapon technology sale fiasco), it was generally well done, progressive, and effective. Now comes the Bush Administration.

Led primarily by Vice President Dick Cheney (who do you think we elected?), this administration takes a far more isolationist, radical approach to world politics. Never mind treating China poorly—they have shown little respect to the United Nations so far. It has been policy for at least a decade now (Cheney also served under President George Bush as Secretary of Defense from 1988 to 1992) to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival. With respect to friendly nations, we are to discourage them from challenging our leadership in order to make it quite clear that the world order is ultimately backed by the United States, to quote a later-retracted 1992 memo regarding his foreign policy strategy, which has so far been astoundingly accurate. Cheney, upon entering office earlier this year, most likely regarded the current rate of Chinese advancement and increase in power with alarm, and began to plan to drastically reduce the country's influence.

In order to understand more fully why Pacific current affairs are going on in such a way, it is also necessary to understand the situation facing the Chinese and their Communist Party. Modernization has always been a potent political catalyst for national reform, and China is no exception. Just as the Industrial Revolution caused Western Europe to throw off the shackles of monarchy and develop the democratic institutions still in place today, the Information Revolution is causing massive changes in the Communist nation whether we realize it or not. It seems that the Internet has spawned an ugly nationalist subculture in China, which, governed largely by sensational chat rooms, is slowly undermining the authority of the Chinese nationalist Party itself. It is a growing trend that the Chinese government in its decision-making is nearly as concerned with appeasing that set of people as it is with serving itself. It is not quite certain what influence chat room visitors could possibly exert on the Communist government; however, it is known that they have been quite effective.

With these two sides of the matter in mind, it should be easier to understand exactly

why the events of the past couple of months have occurred. Neither China nor the United States is commonly held at fault for the mid-air collision of the two pilots; any crash was most likely due to the intercepting pilot's error, or to the political zeal of one or more of the involved pilots. However, the post-incident events speak worlds.

It used to appear as if China, Russia and North Korea were going to pursue a strategic alliance quite similar to the one among the United States, the Americas, and most of Europe. This is a threat that U.S. policy makers understand well; currently, it appears as if the United States is embracing Russia while simultaneously shunning China in an effort to play the two powers against each other. The proposed Missile Defense System would most likely be able to completely protect the United States against a Chinese nuclear attack, but would be unable to withstand a Russian arsenal. This is a fact well known to the Russians, and is designed to procure their grudging support for the system (because they have no choice). They realize that they must now inevitably turn to environmental expansion (while still under limited protection from their nuclear missile) in order to stay a strong nation, thereby alienating them from China. This would ultimately immediately strip China of any nuclear defense. This campaign by the American government is being studied, and appears for the most part to be working. Certainly if Russia did become a complete republic, it would be a decisive victory for capitalism in the worldwide war against communism. However, China most likely will not go down without a fight; although it is a far weaker country than the United States, we should expect continued military and even economic tension for the time being as China attempts to find itself.

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Lights Out For Bush

By AMANDA MARTIN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At some point in our lives nearly all of us fantasize about a romantic, candlelit dinner. Today, Americans must consider what it might be like to eat dinner by candlelight, work by candlelight, and live by candlelight. With rolling blackouts in California and soon possibly New York, and gas prices bounding to nearly three dollars per gallon in the Midwest, President George W. Bush unveiled his energy plan to create an independent American energy industry. The plan is disappointing and discouraging. Instead of focusing on energy conservation or alternate forms of energy, Bush plans to try to tap domestic natural resources and give free reign to the energy industry. But did we expect any less from an administration whose personal bank accounts are engorged with profits of the oil business? Not to mention, Bush received significant support from energy industries during his presidential campaign.

Bush has also demonstrated an interest in expanding the power industry by streamlining and simplifying the process by which a power plant is approved and regulated. This governmental simplification could easily be manipulated into

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ENERGY INDUSTRY.*

lower standards, or at the very least, “weakened government regulation,” as stated by the National Parks Conservation Association. Such a method is unnecessary, even, because the power plant industry is already expanding. One member of the Cato Institute predicts “an electricity glut in the near future.” Strike one for Bush, who expected criticism along partisan lines but not so much from private and independent sources.

Apparently, Bush also sees the petroleum industry as a suitable way to destroy one of the few pieces of land in the US that is still controlled by the powers of nature, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Although the plans for this high tech plant would include ice roads that melt away in the summer as well as shipping done by aircraft, there can be no denying that the deafening eyesore would affect the land nicknamed “America’s Serengeti,” home to foxes, swans and caribou (among others) during the summer. The oil industry can outmuscle the icy cold tundra, and it now holds the power to destroy yet another wildlife haven, thanks to Mr. President.

The most disappointing part of Bush’s energy plan is what the plan is not: a long-term support system for renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind-power and geothermal. Bush attempted to appease environmentalists with scattered tax incentives for owners of fuel-efficient vehicles and users of alternative energy. He even promised that the \$1.2 billion lease of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would go toward renewable energy. In exchange for attacking untainted nature, Bush will give a token to the development of alternative energy. If America is to use this energy, the government must first have long-term trust and involvement in the process of developing it.

Unsurprisingly, President Bush’s energy plan is a great favor to the existing energy industry. For the rest of the citizens of the country, his plan is too risky in its altering of power plant standards, too destructive in its call to drill through Alaska’s wilderness, too short-term and conservative in its lack of support for alternative energy. Americans will continue to squirm uncomfortably with each gas hike, rethinking their decisions to buy status-symbol, gas-thirsty sport utility vehicles. The only difference is that they may soon be squirming in the dark.

Your Forum Editors, Jonah Birch and Ryan DiAngelis, would like to thank you for reading all five issues of our capitalist, elitist, communist, socialist, anarchist, right-wing, conservative, liberal, apathetic, ignorant, nationalist, libertarian, republican, democratic, leftist, but most of all, indecisive rag.

Delinquency or Felony?

By MATTHEW ERLICH, I
STAFF WRITER

What exactly is a child? When does a child become an adult? There are certain things which have always been associated with this coming of age: the right to vote, the right to buy alcohol and tobacco, the ability to sign a binding contract, and the right to enlist in the military, to name a few. These are rights that are enjoyed between the ages of 18 and 21. While the age cutoffs may seem somewhat arbitrary, they are there for a reason. The rigors of military training are not suitable for most people under the age of 18. People under 18 do not always know what is in their best interest, as they lack a fair amount of life experience. Therefore, the law requires that those under 18 not sign a contract without a guardian consenting in signature. It would seem that by these standards, the laws declare that an adult is one who is at least 18, although even then not every right is granted.

However, there has been an entirely different standard allowed by the law. Every year throughout the country many people under the age of 18 are tried as adults. In fact, states throughout the United States have determined that a 14-year-old has the same understanding of what is right and wrong as a 30-year-old. The same 14-year-old who according to all states lacks the life experience to sign a binding contract, is an adult when found guilty of committing a crime.

Recently in Florida, a child named Nathaniel Brazill was on trial for killing his teacher. He pointed a gun at his teacher and fired. Brazill maintains that it was merely an attempt at intimidation and he had no intentions of killing his teacher. The prosecution argued that it was no mistake. Those are the details of the trial itself. However, they are not the most significant aspects of this case. The jury decided that there was enough evidence to convict him. This is how justice works in the United States.

The problem, however, lies with the standard to which he was held. Brazill was tried as an adult although he has yet to be sentenced as one. Nathaniel Brazill is a child. He is absolutely not an adult. One would hope that a child would know that killing another human being is wrong. Most children do know that, and Brazill may very well have known that. However, children are rash and often do things without thinking of the consequences.

In 1999, a 12-year-old boy named Lionel Tate killed a young girl named Tiffany Eunick by body-slamming her. He claimed that he was imitating the professional wrestlers

that he saw on TV. The girl sustained severe injuries, about which the judge said, “It is inconceivable that such injuries could be caused by roughhousing or horseplay or by imitating wrestling moves.” Perhaps the boy had also beaten her up as well. However, the bottom line is that these all sound like the acts of a child, a violent child perhaps, but a child nonetheless. In spite of this, Tate was tried as an adult and convicted. This is a situation that many 12-year-olds could find themselves in: roughhousing with a younger and smaller child, perhaps out of sheer immaturity, when it suddenly crosses the line. Certainly a 25-year-old would be expected to know better but can one who is one or two years removed from elementary school be held to the same expectations?

There are a great amount of other problems with trying children as adults as well. A study in one county (Cook County, Illinois) showed that 99 percent of the youths tried as adults were Black or Hispanic. Another study of 18 jurisdictions showed 82 percent of the tried youths to be minorities. Assuming, however, that this blatant racism could be weeded out somehow, the most telling statistic is that youths put in adult prisons are more likely to commit another crime than those who are handled by the Juvenile Justice System. Youths in adult prisons are 7.7 times more likely to commit suicide and 5 times more likely to be raped than the youths who are placed in Juvenile detention facilities.

Last year, in California, voters approved a referendum that required children 14 and older to be tried as adults. The referendum was later struck down by an appeals court due to a segment of the proposition found to be unconstitutional. The irony of this situation is that those citizens over 18 are the ones deciding that a 14-year-old may be held accountable as an adult.

The laws of this country are often nothing more than a set of arbitrary rules imposed by the government. So it is with laws regarding age-minimums. The difference in maturity between a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old is very small and often non-existent. However, the line must be drawn somewhere, and the lines that are in place are there for good reasons. A 14-year-old cannot vote because the chances that he is as well informed as an adult are very slim. A 14-year-old cannot buy alcohol because his judgment is rarely at the level of an adult. A 14-year-old cannot drive—that would be dangerous. A 14-year-old cannot commit a crime with the same frame of mind as an adult. Therefore, a 14-year-old must not be tried as an adult.

Swift Decision By Governor

By RYAN DIANGELIS, I
FORUM EDITOR

It’s a strange thing, you know. Downright newsworthy, if you ask some. And apparently, not even women in high-power positions are immune to it. Women get pregnant. It happens. In fact, it’s been happening for quite some time now—since the dawn of man, actually. So why has it become such a huge issue?

On Tuesday, May 15, Acting Governor Jane Swift gave birth to twin girls at Brigham and Women Hospital. In the weeks preceding the birth, there was much debate over Swift’s decision to remain active in her gubernatorial position instead of turning the reins over to Secretary of State William Galvin. When she was suddenly admitted to the hospital on May 9, experiencing contractions, she decided that she would conduct her business via speakerphone, fax, and computers. As Jason Kauppi, spokesman for Governor Swift, stated, “Obviously she is only going to do the bare necessities in terms of being governor, but we have prepared for that.”

Her decision immediately brought much criticism from political pundits throughout the state, as well as the Governor’s Council, which consists of eight elected district representatives who generally meet with the governor every Wednesday at noon. They act on issues such as payments from the state treasury, criminal pardons and commutations, and approval of gubernatorial appointments, such as judges, notaries, and justices of the peace. At the moment, the Council has no pressing issues to deal with; however, they are required by state law to meet with the governor each week.

Swift’s decision raised concerns within the entirely Democratic Governor’s Council, which questioned the legality of her decision. Some members publicly criticized her choice to run the state by telephone, and decided by a vote of 5-3 to ask the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court whether or not it is constitutional for her to conduct official gubernatorial business by telephone. The Supreme Judicial Court dismissed

the case.

Perhaps the Governor’s Council, in questioning the governor’s ability to be both governor and mother, wanted to maintain the Massachusetts “old boys” political stereotype. Many also viewed it as a political move on the part of some—many of Swift’s most ardent criticizers are also governor hopefuls for the upcoming 2002 election.

When Lincoln Almond, governor of Rhode Island, was hospitalized, he also chose to maintain full responsibilities

as governor. He decided to conduct meetings and other official business by telephone and fax. No one batted an eye. It didn’t make international news; it wasn’t even front-page news in Rhode Island. It simply wasn’t an issue.

So what’s the difference? Jane Swift is a woman. Her ability to govern the Commonwealth has been questioned since former Governor Paul Cellucci announced his resignation from office. Since her inauguration in April, incredible pressure

has been placed on her to perform at the absolute top—she not only has to prove herself to a distrusting public, but she also has to prove that she could be a successful and efficient mother, wife, and governor.

There is hope for our state, however. Immediately after the negative backlash of media attention that the Governor’s Council received for its decision, several top Massachusetts politicians spoke out in support of the new Governor. Democrat Thomas Finneran, Speaker of the House, stated, “She is perfectly capable to govern and lead this state. Given the technology, and the sensitivity that ordinary people have with regard to this situation, I’m not troubled at all.”

Massachusetts politics took a giant leap backwards in dealing with Governor Swift’s pregnancy. Certain politicians, and the Governor’s Council in particular, proved that perhaps the women’s movement has not quite reached all areas of our society yet. While Massachusetts continues to wrestle over an issue that is virtually irrelevant, we have left the rest of the nation scratching its head over the absurdity with which this situation has been handled.



Editorial Page

No Day at the Beach

By ERIN BURKE, I
SPORTS EDITOR

When you rolled out of bed this morning and chose an outfit for school, did you forget to ask yourself, as you gazed into the mirror, whether or not the headmaster would approve? Or rather, did you stop yourself before you made the mistake of waltzing into the building one sand pail short of full-fledged beach gear? Please do not make this mistake again, you must be aware that this is not a day to be spent at the beach. Rather, this will be your day to be embarrassed because you seem to be ignorant of what proper dress for the “business of education” is.

The first week of May here proved to be in tune with that of normal New England weather completely out of whack. As over 2,000 bodies poured into the school, the temperature rose to an unbearable 90 degrees. While we may not have dressed in sync with the weather the first day of a declared heat wave, on the second day almost every single student came to school prepared. The halls were filled with tank-top-riden children dressed in shorts who distracted everyone with the “flip-flop” their sandals made as they dredged down the hall. A select few were taken aside and asked,

Democracy for Sale!

By ROSE COSTELLO
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

In 1993 President Clinton introduced North American Free Trade Agreement. The NAFTA was intended to create new jobs and open up trade among the United States, Mexico, and Canada. This capitalist dream-come-true has been in effect for eight years now and all of its intended benefits have created new economic problems for all countries involved. Not only has the United States lost around 400,000 jobs, but NAFTA has also encouraged the oppression and exploitation of the cheap Mexican labor force, making a bad economic and humanitarian situation even worse. If NAFTA was such a bust, then why exactly are President Bush and leaders from across the Hemisphere trying to extend it to all of North and South America? Profit, plain and simple.

The most troubling aspect of NAFTA and its big brother the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) is “Chapter 11”. This clause essentially allows global companies to sue the governments of a country over any law, which interferes with their business. This provision has already provided the grounds for many lawsuits which have overridden environmental and consumer laws in the United States,

Canada, and Mexico. Putting the needs of capitalism and large corporations before the laws of a country is anti-democratic.

There are many laws in the United States, which can and have been superceded by multinational profit mongers. A Canadian company making gasoline additives has brought a suit under NAFTA challenging a California law, which prohibits the use of this additive as it poisons the drinking water. Some other protections we enjoy as Americans, which may also come under fire, are the right to unionize, mandatory underwriting

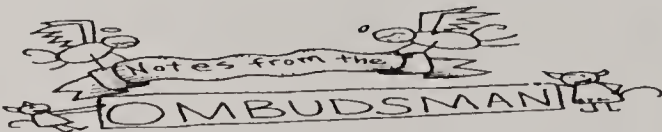
of social insurance programs like Social Security and Medicaid, and the guarantee of safe foods and drugs for consumers.

The secretive nature of the meetings during which the FTAA was developed have also caused concern. The idea for this “NAFTA on steroids” was first developed during a hemispheric trade convention in Miami in 1994. There was a second, equally secretive meeting in Santiago, Chile in 1998. Although the press and protestors were kept at a distance from these meetings, many “trade advisory committees” were consulted in the formulation of this organization. The problem with this is that a “trade advisory committee” is a euphemism for a group of representatives from global corporations. It seems pretty suspicious that the very people who will profit most from this free trade area are the only ones who had any input in it

Proponents of the FTAA argue that the rest of the world must protect its economic interests in the face of the potential strength of the European Union. It is no the economic interests of the average citizens of the thirty-one countries involved, but those of the few multi-national corporations which would be protected.

Last month the plans for the FTAA were finalized at a meeting in Quebec City, Canada. Thousands of demonstrators arrived with the delegates to protest this new infringement on democratic rights. They were brutally suppressed by police who used tear gas and physical force to stop their peaceful demonstrations. Many people across the hemisphere watched these protests on the news, thinking it was another “hippie” riot, unaware of the fact that behind the two miles of chain link fence their leaders were bargaining away democratic freedoms.

A trade organization, which is going to have such legal and economic power, ought to be formed in a democratic open way. It is the people who should decide upon anything, that will usurp the rights of the people.



As Al Franken once said, we live in an age of media info-tainment, when the division between news anchor and sensationalist is about as “thin as the lining of David Crosby’s septum.” I find myself in a similar situation. When I first signed on as Ombudsman, I figured I would set standards of hard-hitting journalism that a petty school newspaper like the Argo had never seen; I would expose lies, tell the truth, and garner respect as an objective and unbiased critic, and all the while walking the fine line of being both integritous and fun to read. And I started off that way, I really did! But then an interesting thing happened: No one complained. And with nothing to actually write about, I found myself leaning toward making people laugh instead. I mean hey, something in the Argo had to be funny.

Over time, even my editors gave up caring. I wrote pretty much whatever I wanted to write, because they needed to fill space, and I had nothing better to do. I looked forward to writing a piece that people would talk about. And to be honest, it was a lot of fun.

So with this, the final issue of the Argo, I have finally reached a dilemma. Someone has written a complaint to the Argo which, while not completely valid, would nevertheless be interesting to respond to, AND that happens to be my job. On the other hand, it’s the last issue of the Argo, and I definitely didn’t want to end my run with a dud if a column that people don’t really want to read, be it journalistically sound or not. Would it be possible to somehow address this reader’s issue, and somehow make it both laugh-out-loud funny, and have it make a poignant statement to the masses. No, not at all. Anyone who says otherwise is a liar. I had to choose one or the other. Be an Ombudsman or a Comedian. Informer or Entertainer. Connie Chung or Connie Lingus. Joe Shortsleeve or Joe...heheh, his last name is Shortsleeve... ..f*ck it. I’ve got time. We’ll do ‘em both.

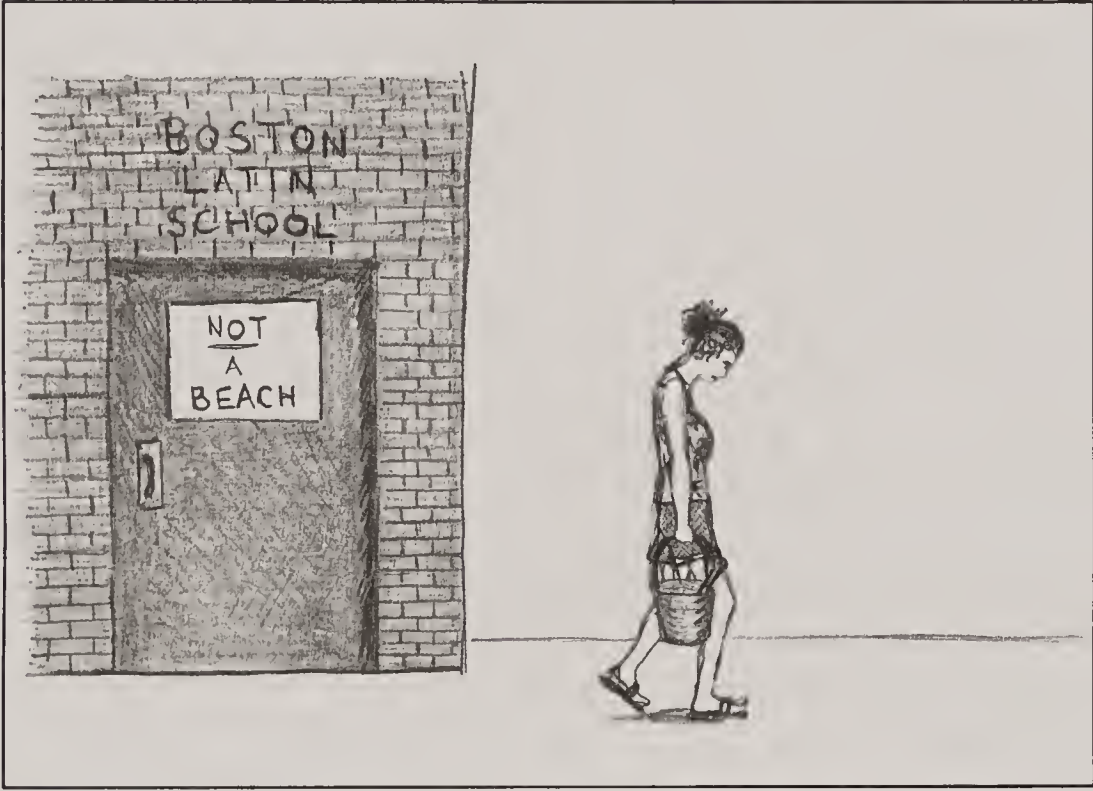
As Bill Waterston once said, “some people take EVERYTHING seriously.” In the last issue, as per usual, a forum question was asked to randomly selected students in each of the six grades at Latin School (the forum page in this issue can be located on p.7). The question asked was “If you could change one thing about the school, what would it be?” Being the cute bunch we are, a comedic twist was thrown in, in asking the three members of the Allukian family that currently attend Latin, and by adding the suffix “Allukian” to those not related. It was funny. People laughed. Some chuckled. Somewhere a child learned how to read.

One person, however, did not find it funny...Not At All. On a BLS parents discussion board, Ms. Kay Barsed-Smith wrote the following: “I noticed that the Argo this month featured a column that was about getting rid of all the “old” teachers at the school; the implication being that if the teacher is over a certain age, then they are no longer good teachers or valuable members of the staff.” She was referring to the comments of Lani Skipper, VI who said “...I would get rid of all the old teachers. They need to go.” When Editor Andrew Barr wrote back, pointing out that the views expressed in the Forum Question section do not represent those of the Argo staff, Ms. Barsed-Smith replied accusing Barr of a “cop-out.” Throughout the remainder of their interchange, Ms. Barsed-Smith made numerous accusations and condemnations toward the Argo.

Naturally, being the “cop-out”-abhorring Ombudsman that I am, I will attempt to answer all of Ms. Barsed-Smith’s accusations. Let the propaganda begin! (Quotes in bold represent direct quotes from Ms. Barsed-Smith via email, quotes in plain text represent the responses of Editor Andrew Barr or myself, where credited) “The Argo chose to print those responses that were pretty consistently insulting to older teachers.”

-Barr said: The Argo chose to use a “man-on-the-street” feature in which the Forum Editor and a photographer stand in the hallway in the morning and ask one person from each grade the Forum Question, which in this case was, “What do you most want to change about Latin School?” The Argo does not censor, especially when the comments are coming directly from students in an interview setting. To do so would be irresponsible journalism. Furthermore, one comment had to do with food. One comment had to do with the subject of Latin. One comment had to do with helping struggling students more. One comment had to do with the respondent’s view that “everything” needed to be changed. Surely you don’t see a slur to aged teachers there? One student responded, “I would like for the teachers to be generally more responsive to the needs of the students.” If you see a knock on older teachers there, it’s because you associate non-responsiveness with older teachers.

(continued on page 11)



An illusion shattered

do you think you are wearing?” To their certain shock, they were apparently not dressed for the business of education! [Cue in gasp].

You see, these students were not dressed in the fashion deemed appropriate by the headmaster, a lady who must be dressed in formal attire each day as she attends meetings of great matter and importance. What many failed to realize that day was that we, as students, don’t have to don the same formal type of clothing that the headmaster sports (a comment unnecessary had the headmaster not proudly pointed to her outfit as that of proper education attire). The agenda book clearly states that shorts, tank tops, and sandals are not against any dress code rules, although the discretion of the headmaster apparently is enough to send groups of students away in a huff due to the unnecessary embarrassment and annoyance caused by a single comment.

It is the small things that cause the environment at this school to be so unbearable, and on a 90-degree day in which the frustration level rises with the temperature, those small things are just not needed. The student body has enough to worry about throughout their day without having to remember to ask themselves that single most important question that really just plagues everyone’s morning: “Will my headmaster approve?” The answer that was generally accepted and should be is, “Hey, I really don’t care.”

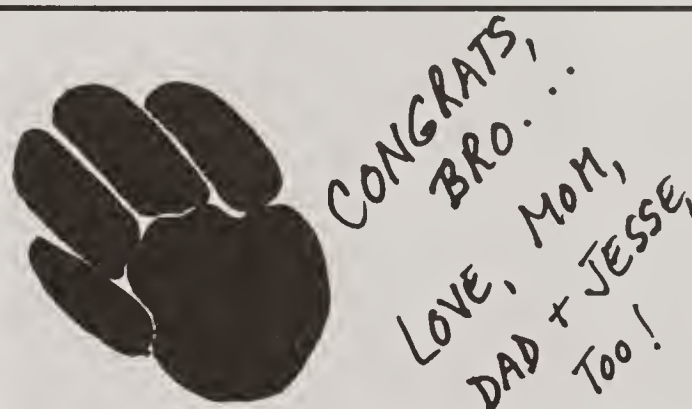
Dressing for the business of education calls for dressing in a manner that may allow us to pay attention to material we are learning. If coerced to wear an warm outfit that is deemed appropriate by the headmaster and yet we are so distracted by our discomfort, how is that possibly the better option? At a school where it constantly seems as though students are objectified to make the school “look good,” this is just one more example of caring more about appearance than actual comfort. It is simply disappointing for a school which insists that it has concern and care for students as people to berate them out of embarrassment for their appearance.

Graduation Congratulations

Love, Mom, Dad, & T. Wallbrooks

Un Abrazo,
Papa, Mama, y Peter

Ms. Palmer



Love, Mom, Dad, Kerry
& Tim

Virginia Salvito & Sheldon Barr

Love, Mom, Dad, Chris & Patrick

Love, The Ho Family

With a lot of love from Mom, Dad, Grandpa & Grandma, Aunt & Uncles

(continued from page 10)

"You note that the column is the 'man on the street' yet the the intro says that it 'randomly' selected cross section of Allukians and other Latin students; yet, there is a choice in selecting 'Allukians'. Although I know that not all of these students are related to Jason, there is an implication of some association in that all

- I say: Well, now you're just being insulting. Similar to the way you critique the Argo for running 'negative' material, I must do the same to you. You are stating no facts, but rather your opinion, without any regard for how people take it, because you perceive it as truth. This is no different the Ms. Skipper's

The fighters are standing toe to toe in the middle of the ring. McCafferty looks unimpressed by Latin's obvious size and weight advantage. I don't know if he's taking this fight seriously at all...

Round 3 (Ninth grade ... of doom!): I fail a clas s... for the year. Seriously. Administration calls my house and tells me to look into other schools (McCafferty's down after a devastating *(continues on page 18)*)

Class of 2001 College List

“Looks like heaven’s easier to get into than Arizona State!”

-Ned Flanders-

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cynthia Adames | Bay State College | Diana Duerer | UMass Boston | David Lee | U.S. Navy | Fadi Rif | Fordham University |
| Akintund Akinade | University of New Haven | Cameron Dumas | U.S. Marine Corps | Patrick Leeman | Boston College | Hans Robles | UMass Boston |
| Andrea Alicea | Undecided | Sarah Dwyer | University of Vermont | Carolyn Lennon | Assumption College | Owen Roddy | Roanoke College |
| Tyrishma Allen | Hampton University | Matt Erlich | Johns Hopkins University | Adam Leskow | Wentworth Inst. of Tech. | Nicole Rodriguez | Villanova University |
| Jason Allukian | Northfield Mount Hermon | Max Eskin | Cornell University | Jovia Leveille | Northeastern | Andrew Rosewitz | Franklin Institute |
| Sherar Andalcio | Boston College | Kellia Estrella | Framingham State College | Charles Levin | The Winchendon School | Devon Rueckner | U. of Maryland, College Park |
| Catherine Anderson | Drexel University | John Fabiano | Stonehill College | Melissa Li | Boston University | Jennifer Ruff | Northeastern |
| Veronica Arevalo | Bridgewater State College | Brian Farnkoff | Hamilton College | Jin Lin | Boston University | Patricia Russell | Syracuse University |
| Elizabeth Arias | McGill University | Lucia Fernandez | Boston University | Lemonia Lithoxopoulos | Boston University | Jeffrey Sacco | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Jeffrey Arinella | Wheaton College | Kristen Fiore | Dartmouth College | Mei Hua Liu | Northeastern | Sitara Sadler | Johnson C. Smith University |
| Richard Arris | University of Delaware | Daniel Fitzgerald | UMass Amherst | Brian Lohan | UMass Amherst | Amreet Saini | Boston University |
| Saadia Aziz | University of New Hampshire | Lauren Flynn | Endicott College | David Loi | Northeastern | Alcania Salvador | UMass Boston |
| Andrew Barr | Harvard University | Alexander Fok | UMass Amherst | Erico Lopez | Undecided | Stephanie Samson | Lasell College |
| Janille Benjamin | Lesley University | Anne Foley | Harvard University | Keith MacDonald | Boston College | Kishore Sanariya | UMass Boston |
| Jonah Birch | Columbia University | Kevin Foley | Merrimack College | Kevin MacDonald | Boston College | Seda Sean | Boston College |
| Michael Bizier | U. of Rhode Island | Lauren Foley | Amherst College | Jessica MacTaggart | Assumption College | Kevin Shelley | Undecided |
| Kara Boniface | UMass Amherst | Chris Fong | Colby-Sawyer College | Elisabeth Maguire | Colby College | Heather Showstead | U. of N. Carolina, Greensboro |
| Abner Bonilla | Wentworth Inst. of Tech. | Kam Kwan Fong | UMass Amherst | Kevin Mann | Villanova University | Gloria Shum | Bentley College |
| Jamara Bonilla | UMass Boston | Patrick Forde | Salem State College | Michael Manning | St. Michael's College | Colin Smith | Boston University |
| Jacob Bor | Harvard University | Peter Foundas | UMass Amherst | Judesther Marc | Northeastern | Tinia Snow | Northeastern |
| Nicole Bourgeois | UMass Amherst | Sarita Frattaroli | Wellesley College | Michelle Marino | Northeastern | Karen Soh | Northeastern |
| Noni Bourne | Spelman University | Kathryn Freeley | University of Hartford | Jillian Marrama | Suffolk University | Jonathan Speranza | U. of Miami |
| Stephen Boyle | Northeastern | Soren Gandrud | Johns Hopkins University | Abra Mason | Simmons College | Sarah Stancato | UMass Amherst |
| John Bravo | UMass Amherst | Leo Gannon | U.S. Navy | Diego McCafferty | UMass Amherst | Lauren Staniunas | Lehigh University |
| Holly Brideau | Rensselaer Polytechnic | Jon Gass | George Washington University | Alana McCarthy | Boston University | Shannon Starck | Boston College |
| Ashley Britton | Bryant College | Caroline Gaudet | UMass Amherst | Katherine McGrath | Assumption College | Ryan Still | Undecided |
| Gina Bruno | Boston College | Molly Gee | Mass. College of Pharmacy | Tobin McKenna | UMass Amherst | Vanessa St. Leger | Howard University |
| Diana Buda | Harvard University | Lauren Gilmore | Harvard University | Julia McLaughlin | U. Maryland, College Park | David Sullivan | Bridgewater State College |
| Erin Burke | University of Vermont | Romina Gomez | Bryn Mawr College | Robert McLaughlin | University of Delaware | Timothy Swain | Loyola University, New Orleans |
| Ian Burke | Undecided | Stephanie Gonzalez | Fairfield University | Kathryn Meade | Boston University | Jennifer Szeto | Lesley University |
| Jean Calixte | Boston College | Lee Guo | Boston College | Michelle Miller | Suffolk University | Celia Tam | Boston University |
| Ivelisse Camacho | UMass Amherst | Kandi Guscott | Temple University | Twanisha Mitchell | Boston University | Cassandra Tamis | Bates College |
| Marie Camden | Fairfield University | Simon Haile | Wentworth | Ryan Montoya | Harvard University | Yu Ling Tan | UMass Amherst |
| Brian Carthas | Princeton University | Anthony Hamad | Franklin & Marshall College | James Moore | Mass. Maritime Academy | Rocky Tang | Northeastern |
| Dennis Castro | Bridgewater State College | Thomas Hannon | Marines | Fabian Mora | Florida International University | Michele Tassinari | Northeastern |
| Victoria Cataldo | Boston University | Julia Hartwig | UMass Amherst | Daniel Moran | Assumption College | LaToya Tavernier | Columbia University |
| Man Wai Chan | Northeastern | Ena Hilaire | Boston College | Alicia Morrison | Hampshire College | Seth Thomases | New York University |
| Maria Chan | Boston University | Betty Ho | Harvard University | Matthew Murphy | Bridgeton Academy Prep | Alicia Tildsley | Trinity College |
| Philip Chan | Boston College | Diemtrinh Ho | Northeastern | Nia Murrell | Pepperdine University | Laura Tobias | University of Rochester |
| Suzanne Chan | Boston University | Jonathan Ho | Boston University | Victor Nemchenok | Cornell University | John Tobin | St. Lawrence University |
| LiYi Chen | MIT | Nicole Hogarty | St. Mary's College | Dennis Ng | Harvard University | William Tom | UMass Boston |
| Tian Rong Chen | Boston University | Rachel Holland | Macalester College | Amy Nguyen | Hofstra University | Stephen Tompkins | Bridgewater State College |
| Xiong Yuan Chen | Boston University | Amanda Holm | Harvard University | Dieu Nguyen | Boston University | Daniela Torres | UMass Boston |
| Xu Si Chen | Boston University | Paul Hourihan | St. Michael's College | Elizabeth Nguyen | Northeastern | Videna Toussaint | Stonehill College |
| Thomas Chin | Boston University | Jer Lan Huang | UMass Amherst | Hoang Nguyen | Tufts University | Vi Tran | Northeastern |
| Joe Christiani | Brown University | Lucus Huang | Bentley College | Huong Nguyen | Mount Holyoke College | Rebecca Tumposky | Oberlin College |
| Kevin Coakley | Undecided | Patrick Huether | Bridgewater State College | Kathleen Nguyen | Boston University | Maury Turay | Virginia Tech. |
| Amy Cochrane | University of Vermont | Brian Hughes | University of Scranton | Krissy Nguyen | McGill University | Nnenna Ude | Dartmouth College |
| Lenesha Cody | UMass Boston | Lauren Hughes | UMass Dartmouth | Songan Nguyen | UMass Amherst | Eduardo Vazquez | Employment |
| Joe Coffey | Stonehill University | Marquis Hunt | UMass Amherst | Vinh Nguyen | University of Pennsylvania | Abiner Vicente | Wentworth |
| Sean Colby | Northeastern | Linann Hutchinson | U. of Rhode Island | Patricia Nugent | Delaware State University | Thu Giang Vo | UMass Amherst |
| Chris Coletta | UMass Amherst | ThanThao Huynh | Boston University | Brandy Oakley | Syracuse University | Erica Voyard | Atlantic Union College |
| Andrew Collins | The Guntery Prep | Amor Ibe | Seattle University | Ashley O'Brien | University of Miami | Elizabeth Walczak | Hamilton College |
| Nick Collins | The Guntery Prep | Elizabeth Icaza | UMass Amherst | Daniel O'Brien | Northeastern | Allyson Wall | Stonehill College |
| Daniel Colon | Stonehill College | Dennis Itri | Hofstra University | Michelle O'Connor | UMass Dartmouth | Ethan Wall | Undecided |
| Lindsay Conlin | Boston College | Jeremy Jackson | McGill University | Christian O'Donnell | Wentworth Inst. of Tech. | Richard Wang | Boston University |
| Brendan Connell | Harvard University | Paul Jackson | Employment | Ugo Ojimba | UMass Lowell | Hideyoshi Watanabe | Northeastern |
| Emily Conroy | Boston College | Inez Johnson | U. of Maryland | Erin O'Keefe | Bryn Mawr College | Gary Webster | Morehouse College |
| Amil Cook | Morehouse College | Marcus Johnson | Johnson & Wales University | Chinedu Okongwu | UMass Amherst | Matthew Wentworth | Assumption College |
| Aisha Cort | Yale University | Allison Jolly | Louisiana State University | Adepeju Olowu | St. Lawrence College | SarahWessmann | UMass Amherst |
| Rose Costello | Bryn Mawr College | Kaitlyn Jolly | UMass Amherst | Daniel O'Reilly | Merrimack University | Sonja Williams | Temple University |
| Patricia Courtney | McGill University | Marcus Jordan | Boston University | Adebola Owolewa | Harvard University | Antonius Wriadjaja | Hampshire College |
| Meghan Coyne | Holy Cross | Taryn Joseph- Ferrara | Newbury College | Joseph Panchamsing | Wentworth Inst. of Tech. | Betty Wong | Boston University |
| Lucy Craven | Stonehill University | Kelvin Juarbe | UMass Boston | David Paquet- Whall | Boston University | Farah Yan Wong | Boston College |
| Katie Curtin | University of Delaware | Christine Keane | St. Anselm College | Giversaint Paul | Northeastern | Noble Wong | UMass Amherst |
| Kevin Daniels | St. Anselm College | Sinead Keegan | McGill University | Yasmine Pena | Tufts University | Matthew Wright | New York University |
| Brian Danz | Bentley College | Kara Keeley | UMass Amherst | Rebecca Pepp | Earlham College | Nina Wu | Northeastern |
| Marisha Davis | University of Hartford | Michelle Kelley | Undecided | John Perakis | UMass Amherst | Long Xiong | UMass Amherst |
| Meghan Davoren | Catholic University | Lisa Kenney | Johnson & Wales University | Patrick Pinto | Temple University | TingYu Xu | Boston University |
| Guy Debros | Tufts University | David King | U. of Texas: Austin | Emily Poles | University of Dayton | JidaYan | MIT |
| Jared Deflurin | Mass. Maritime Academy | Katherine King | U. of New Hampshire | Gregory Porter | Plymouth State College | Simon Yip | Worcester Polytechnic |
| Jorge Delacruz | UMass Amherst | Ben Koskinen | University of Tampa | Kira Powell | Principia College | HanYu | Harvard University |
| Steven Delosh | Notre Dame | Marta Krajewski | Worcester Polytechnic | Jessica Price | Skidmore College | Ana Yurrita | Northeastern |
| Allison D'Eugenio | UMass Amherst | Yevgeniy Kreydin | Harvard University | Samuel Price | St. Johns University | Charlene Zapata | UMass Dartmouth |
| Nicole Devlin | Boston University | Roger Kueny | Vassar College | Miriam Pugh | Skidmore College | Blanca Zepeda | UMass Dartmouth |
| Ryan DiAngelis | Brandeis University | Maia Laing | Hampton University | Karen Quartey | Clark University | Yu Kun Zhang | UMass Amherst |
| Diem Do | Wellesley College | Mei Hua Lam | Boston University | Jeffrey Quinchia | Bridgewater State College | | |
| Michael Doherty | UMass Amherst | Vanessa Lane | Franklin & Marshall College | Seamus Quinn | Salem State College | | |
| Sarah Donnelly | Fordham University | Richard Lawson | Boston College | Julian Ramirez | Wentworth Inst. of Tech. | | |
| Steven Dorat | Franklin Pierce College | Douglas Le | Columbia University | Karyn Rautenberg | Union College | | |
| Meghan Droste | Boston University | My Dzi Le | Carnegie Mellon University | William Ray | UMass Amherst | | |
| Rhys Dudeney | Hope College | Alan Lee | Boston University | Leonard Reece | University of Virginia | | |

Congratulations to the Class
of 2001!

2001 Class Officers Sign Off

President



Joseph Coffey

Congratulations to the warrior poets of the Class of 2001. Recently, the headlines proclaimed "Boston Latin students top state in MCAS scores." This announcement came as no surprise to the purple and white community; in fact, such news is treated as routine at the oldest public school in the nation. In a fair fight, the students at Avenue Louis Pasteur could easily emerge victorious in any academic contest. The Class of 2001 has contributed to that national reputation of excellence not only in the classroom, but also on the playing fields, in the concert halls, in the science laboratories, in the theatrical world, and in the journalism fields. Past graduates who often demonstrate a nonchalance to notices of achievement by current BLS students were somewhat startled when the Wolfpack athletic teams reached illustrious heights this year. The alumni "ho hum" attitude changed to "HOORAH" as both the girls and boys hockey teams shook up the state tournament, which culminated in a trip to the Fleet Center State Championship game for the Wolfpack boys. Likewise, this year's numerous theatrical, musical and journalistic successes brought further accolades to the purple palace. All this is part of the tradition of Boston Latin School. It's a tradition of excellence based on the theme of *mens sana in corpore sano*. The Class of 2001, with its remarkable students, disciplined athletes, dedicated musicians, hard working journalists, and inspirational thespians, reflects the tradition established by each succeeding graduating class of versatile scholars.

This was a hectic senior year, full of decisions and challenges. All the classes collectively and the students individually suffered the tragic loss of two classmates. The memory of senior Tam Pham, an artist, athlete and friend, will remain with us long after we step into the real world. The impact of losing freshman John Yessayan, a strong athlete and scholar, continues to be felt by the Boston Latin community. As Class President I promise to assist the Alumni Association in keeping their memory alive.

But we must swallow loss as readily as we savor victory. We must continue to seek out new people, new activities, and new worlds. We will soon leave the comfort zone and wander into the question mark of living. My hero, William Wallace, set the tone centuries ago: "Every man dies, not every man really lives." Or in the words of Nike, "Just do it!" Do it for yourselves, for your school, for God, for the country ... for Tam and John.

Noble Class of 2001, fellow poets and warriors, do not go gently into the world! Seize opportunity! Be brave, not afraid. You are Boston Latin School! You carry the responsibility and history of over 365 years of senior classes.

I salute you, my classmates, my friends, my teammates, my fellow officers of the Class of 2001. Thank you for your support. I thank the coaches, and especially the people who took the time each day to talk and listen. I offer my sincere thanks to Headmaster Kelley, Mr. Doherty, Mr. Montague, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Stuppard, Ms. Pritchard, Nurse Kenney, Nurse Graham, Kenny, Jimmy the truck driver, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Russo, Coach Coleman, Coach Meagher, Coach McMorro, the hockey squad, the X-C team, the volleyball boys, Ms. Wong Ho, the bravest students in the school – declaimers, Coach Costello, Ms. Fernandez, Dr. Carroll, Dr. Holland, Mr. Stone, Mr. "O", Ms. Meany, the Lunch Ladies, Mr. Keitt, Mr. Grant, Ms. Sylvester, Bruce McKinnon, Mr. Ramos, Mr. Waldron, Ms. Craddock, Ms. Hawkins, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Tibbets, Coach MacNamara, Mr. Izzo, Ms. Walter, Mr. Barry, Ms. Mendez, Mr. Harper, Ms. Howkinson, Dr. Carroll, Mrs. Rawding, Mrs. Hantout, Ms. Trainor, Shirley, Emily, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Idzik (Come back!), Mr. O'Malley (Quiz time!) and all the other people whom I forgot to mention but I know care about my classmates and me ... and the Boston Latin School. May God bless you, and God bless America!

And I leave all of you with the words of Robert Frost:
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverge in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.
—From "The Road Not Taken"

Treasurer



Kara Keeley

I have decided not to make this a political article about the checks and balances of the Class of 2001 and all that has or has not been successfully accomplished this year. I am going to attempt to make this a bit more interesting. ...

First off, did you ever picture yourself as the person you are today?

Did you ever think that you would be number one in the whole class? How about number 201? Did you ever picture yourself wearing the clothes you are wearing right now? How about your hair? Did you ever think that your parents would actually let you go to Cancun or the Bahamas? Did you ever anticipate you would be dating the person that you are now? Did you think that you would have the same friends? Did you ever think that you would graduate from Boston Latin? As I look at old pictures and remember what went through my mind at the age of thirteen, I never would have placed myself in the shoes that I am in today. Boston Latin has changed us all.

We will all take a piece of school with us wherever we travel to, and I am positive that we have permanently branded our infamous class into the memories of this building and the people in it.

I think that the most important thing about this year is that we have all come together. We have learned to rely on each other and support each other when we need it the most. On June 10 I think that we will be able to walk into graduation not just as individual graduates, but as a graduating class.

Vice President Ena Hilaire

Growing up at Boston Latin School was very hard. I experienced good times and I experienced bad times. I learned that difficult experiences teach people valuable lessons. The class committee and I began this year with certain goals we wanted to accomplish. Along the way it got tougher for us to execute these plans because we were lacking the support from people we needed. Class committee was criticized because most of our classmates thought "we were not doing our job". The irony in this situation was that the few of us that were actually in the meetings were working very hard. During the course of this year I realized that some people want positions because



want to let Class of 2001 to know that life is just beginning for us. Class of 2001 is the best class there ever was because I

of popularity and other s work hard no matter how much credit they receive for it. The ones that put their hearts into it deserve all credit because they made the difference.

Boston Latin School is a remarkable place. Some teachers told me I would not amount to anything and others encouraged me until the end. I

believe that we will all succeed in everything we decide to do. We are hard workers and intelligent human beings. Sometimes being at BLS felt discouraging but as your Class Vice President I want to encourage you to be the best and not settle for less than what you deserve.

I would like to thank God because if it were not for Him I would not be where I am today. I want to thank my family and friends for being so supportive throughout this year. I want to thank Mr. Keitt, Ms. Middleton, and Mr. Montague for helping me through my rough times this year. Drudys, James, Mirlina, Karen, Gary, Maia, Saadia, Tara, Sonja, Michelle, Amor, Ashley, Tyrishma, Kelvin, Hans, Eduardo, Jovia, Brandy, Joe, Fabian, Ivie, Ugo, Hoodie, Erico, Blanca, Abra, Daniela, Tinia, Amil, Simone, Ben, Kandi, and whoever I forgot I want to let you know that I love you very much and that I would not have made it without you.

Secretary Ashley O'Brien

As graduation approaches, and excitement increases to "get out of here", I cannot help but feel sad. This is the end of an era. The notorious Class of '01 is leaving the Latin School. With our departure a legacy is left. I would like to take a moment to thank my classmates for making this legacy possible. It is filled with all the memories and good times we had here at Latin. Although we drove the Administration crazy in the process, we made the most of our high-school years. Each of the six years have taken different twists, due to having



different teachers and finding new friends, however senior year was special. Amidst the hectic college application process, I really felt this year was unique. Despite past feuds or differences that exist among our class, we came together this year and for the first time, it felt like a real community. We might not all get along, and we might not all be the best of friends but this year we came together and

showed the Administration that the Class of '01 is the best class in the history of Latin School. We've had our problems, but the outcome is amazing. If you walk into the dining hall this is evident. Looking at the "stars" of the senior class, one can see that we have turned out to be successful and heading towards great futures. The road ahead is a bright one for the Class of 2001, and all of us await it anxiously. In a few short weeks we will be graduates of the Latin School, and although the infamous speech "Look to the left, look to the right" proved to be true, it is quite an accomplishment that 326 of us are leaving with nothing but good fortune ahead. I am very proud to be a member of this class; it has been a wild and crazy ride. Now that it is coming to an end, I would like to thank my classmates for an unbelievable high school career. Good luck with all that you do, take care and don't ever forget your years at Latin. Sincerely, Ashley O'Brien.

Notes From the Valedictorian

By **ANDREW BARR, I**
VALEDICTORIAN, CLASS OF 2001

“Twentieth century, go to sleep
Really deep
We won’t blink
Your eyes are burning holes through me
I’m not scared
I’m outta here”
-“Electrolite,” R. E. M.

And I am, in fact, outta here. I refuse to rage, rage, against the dying of the light. Cripes, I’ve been doing this gig for six years. It’s time for something else. But, you know, it’s sort of a shame. I think I’m just figuring it all out, and now I have to start over, a little fish in a big pond. And I’m not quite sure what there is to say. Thank you? I’m sorry? I’ll miss you? And who am I talking to?

Thankfully, these are easier questions than those that relate to calculus or gaping holes that appear in the Argo at 10 p.m. on Final Fridays.

I’m rambling. I do that a lot these days. My last day of high school comes at the end of a week in which I spent upwards of 30 hours in the Mac Lab. I’m graduating the day after my 18th birthday. It’s like having a loose tooth that’s slowly wiggling out, only to be suddenly replaced by a new one. Oh yeah, and I’m already losing the ability to express myself in writing. Like I said, I do a lot of rambling.

I guess I’m a little confused because I really feel nothing but exhaustion right now. At my fifth grade graduation, I was an emotional, sobbing mess. When I left middle



school, I was psyched to be getting out. And I wondered how I’d feel upon leaving Latin School after six long years.

The answer? I feel. . . smart. I’ve learned things here. And they weren’t necessarily academic things — in fact, I’m sure I’ve already forgotten half of what I learned in most of my subjects. But I’d like to take this space to share them. . . partly because if I’d realized them earlier, I could have saved myself a little stress, and partly because lists and bullet points kill space.

ANDY’S LAWS

1. *Nothing is ever as bad as it seems; nothing is ever as good as it seems.*

Call this the Perspective Theorem. I’ve had a lot of really great days in my time, days where I went home singing and with the

full and total knowledge that I was invincible and that everything would always work out. Then I would get home and realize that I’d left something important in my locker. Similarly, I’ve gone home in a whirlwind of despair several times. I’ve punched a few walls. But then I would get a phone call from a friend or happen to see a particularly good episode of “The Simpsons” and the world continues spinning on its axis.

I guess the lesson there is that you can always return your emotions to a comfortable pH level (hey, I did remember something from Chemistry) by remembering that they’ll get back there on their own eventually.

2. *It is almost impossible to screw up your entire life in one day.*

I started reciting this line every morning as I left the house. Basically, whenever you wake up and realize that you have four tests and a paper due, remember that no one day is so important that it justifies stressing too much over. You can never really do that much damage just by having one bad day. Unless you fall off a roof or something.

3. *Lists are your friends.*

At the beginning of May, I realized that the Argo AND the Register AND all of my AP tests AND the last few days of my high school career would all be occurring within a two-week period. These have been the toughest days of my life. But I’ve managed not to fall behind with the work for one reason: I began making lists. To-do lists, people to call lists, stuff to remember lists, lists of “things to panic about,” even a list of CD’s I wished I had the money and time to purchase. Yeah, I know, it’s not a real inspiring

Law, but it’s practical.
4. *Grades are measures of something other than intelligence.*

It’s real easy for the valedictorian to say, “Don’t worry about your grades.” In fact, I feel sort of dumb for saying it, and I already know where I’m going with this. Basically, grades measure how well you play what I call “the school game.” You know: Using fonts that appeal to the eye, double-spacing, writing neatly, five paragraphs and proper use of the semicolon, etc. Not only do they not measure how smart you are, they don’t even measure how much you know in the particular subject. They are merely scores of a game. So, worry a little about the game. Learn to play it well. And then let it go. That frees your mind up to make more lists.

5. *You’re stuck here; have fun with it.*

Yeah, I know, there’s nothing exciting about most classes, even the good ones. But the way I see it, unless you’re going to leave and go to the Galleria (which, of course, would be wrong), you’re going to be sitting there for 45 minutes. There’s a reason they teach everything they do teach. There’s something, something about calculus and chemistry and history that made someone go, “Hey! The kids should know about this!” Since you’re stuck there anyway, try to figure out what that something is.

6. *Once a week, moonwalk to class.*

Just ‘cuz I’d like to see that.

Ladies and gentlemen, it’s been more or less a good time. And as this final issue of the Argo gets ready to go to the printer, I hope we can all honestly say that we’re not scared.

We’re outta here.

Notes from the Salutatorian

By **DENNIS NG, I**
SALUTATORIAN, CLASS OF 2001

Here. Let me tell you a true and personal story. Two years ago, Dennis Ng was going to move out of the Boston Latin School to a beautiful private school campus. He had enough of the apathy. He wanted to move up the food chain, go to a private school that paid more attention to the student, a school that might make Dennis Ng brighter, smarter and even more intelligent. And perhaps make Dennis Ng rule the world.

But of course I did not go there. I could not go to a school that seemed so rich but so shallow. It is as though something about Boston Latin School and its student body held me back in my purple seat. I cannot say what exactly made me make that last decision to turn around and say I would come back to a rat hole place called BLS.

Maybe it was the toilet paper (or the lack of it) or the claustrophobic G-rooms, the infamous chase by Barbara down corridors, or knowing the bell schedules to the second. Maybe it was about knowing all too well that at age 15, the



“real world” was not defined by the green freshly-cut grass with deliciously cooked meals served three times a day and that the real world meant seeing to it that you made it through History class without sleeping through half of it. Maybe it was knowing that people who may not have six-digit incomes or connections with famous politicians could indeed just be as witty, as supportive and as good at pulling a party as those who could afford wooden fireplaces with gold trims.

Still I can never forget the thought that I might be leaving BLS forever-its intimidating brick labyrinth, its teachers, and its class of 2001 whose enthusiasm, pride and exuberance compares to no other group I have ever met. And no doubt, I have that feeling again today in my heart of leaving this school that only brings me both sadness and joy.

I am only guessing that you have that same feeling of ambivalence towards leaving this school now. At last, you are free;

they call you a winner, a survivor even, but you can still taste the not-so-tangy flavor of a half-baked slice of pizza, see the graffiti art on the tables or hear AFFFLLLLAAACC in your classes. And, at last you hear the choir singing “Alleluia” as you sigh in relief like when you passed in your senior paper at the last possible deadline, but your confrontations with Mr. Power, Ms. Durkin and Ms. Ponte, and your comfort with Ms. O’Malley and Mr. Montague feel like only yesterday.

But if there is anything that I as your salutatorian should be doing in this article, it is that I should salute you for completing a challenge down a fun but slippery and exciting but intimidating path called the Boston Latin School. I know all of you made a choice to come here. And thank goodness, you did. Congratulations! You are the first class of the new millennium, a new century and a new decade. We have taught each other more than we could have ever learned. I am more than grateful to salute to you my best wishes.

Into the Light

By **SINEAD KEEGAN, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the first day of kindergarten my teacher handed each child in my class a box of brand new crayons. They were the thick, easy-grip kind with one flat side so they wouldn’t roll of the table. Inside my box I found the treasure of a lifetime: A beautiful royal purple crayon. Then my teacher handed out a picture of a tree and told us to color it using our new crayons. Well, I seized the opportunity and my new royal purple crayon and I colored that tree. Within a few moments the leaves were purple, the trunk was purple, the grass was purple and there was a great royal purple aura surrounding the tree. I viewed my masterpiece triumphantly as my teacher walked around the room. When she came to me she looked at my paper and told me that she loved my picture but suggested that maybe next time I might take a few extra moments and try to stay within the lines. I looked at my teacher, then back at the paper, totally stunned. It had never occurred to me that I was meant to color inside the lines, and, quite frankly, I didn’t like the idea. My five-year-old mind didn’t like the concept of lines and neither does my seventeen-year-old mind.

Sadly, my purple tree experience was not my last with constricting lines. All through elementary school I suffered at the hands of teachers who wanted me to color inside the lines or work within certain parameters, but nothing was as bad as here. I was told on my first day here that “this is what the real world is like.” “You must do it this way or you won’t succeed in life.” “Colleges won’t like it if you don’t follow the directions to the letter.” The very hallways of this building are made of the lines that we are all kept within. But I can honestly say, THEY DON’T MATTER! These lines are all a joke! I gave up. I decided that if I still couldn’t color between the lines twelve years later at seventeen it just wasn’t going to happen for me. I decided I was simply going to have to find the college that likes people who color outside the lines. And you know something? I found that college! So I’m walking out of these dark hallways overshadowed by their oppressive lines. I’m walking out that door into the light with my beautiful royal purple crayon in my hand. Because these lines have taught me something: they taught me that lines aren’t there to keep me in, lines are there so that some of us can color right on over them and give the whole world a royal purple aura.

Latin, Ancient Greek, Hebrew
German, French, etc. Tutoring &
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154 Auburn St., Cambridge, MA
02139
617-868-6058
www.world.std.com/-Anders

Senior Questionnaire Responses

What was your least favorite year at BLS?



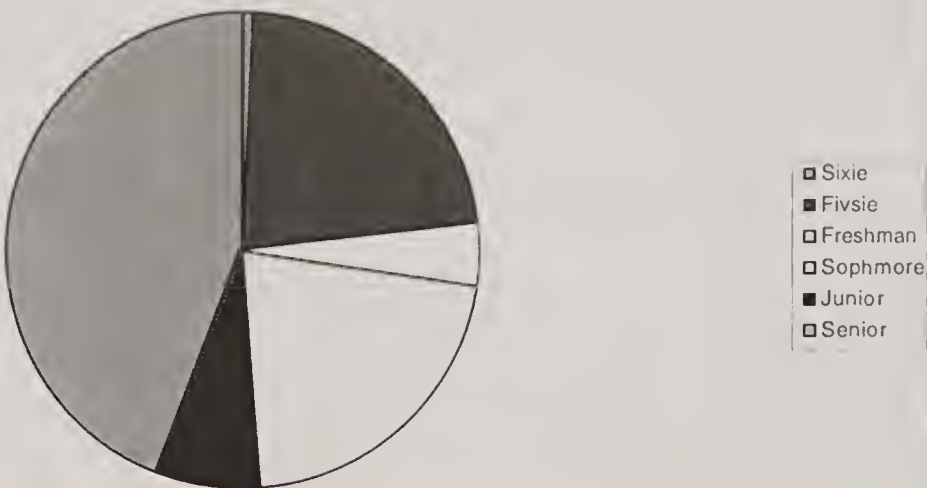
What was your least favorite year at BLS?

22% -- Sixie
2% -- Fivsie
17% -- Freshman
10% -- Sophomore
45% -- Junior
4% -- Senior

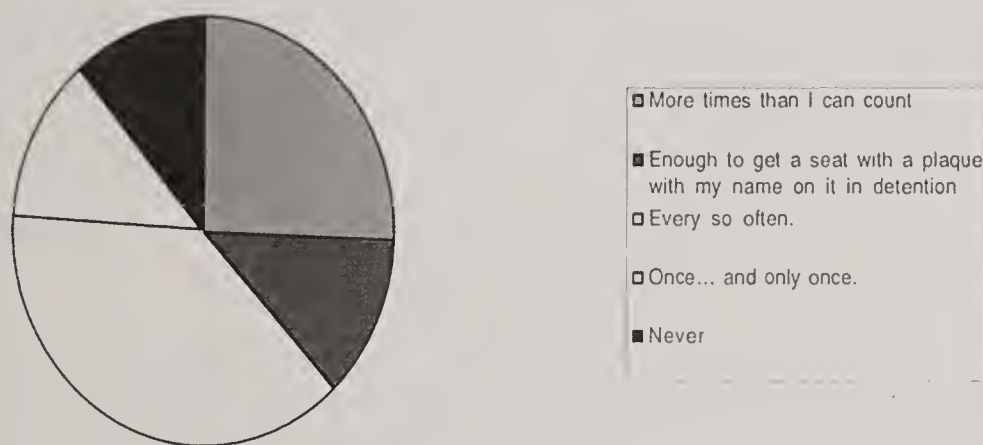
What was your favorite year at BLS?

1% -- Sixie
22% -- Fivesie
4% -- Freshman
21% -- Sophomore
7% -- Junior
44% -- Senior

What was your favorite year at BLS?



How many times have you been stopped by Security Guard Barbara Russo?



How many times have you been stopped by Security Guard Barbara Russo?

26% -- More times than I can count
12% -- Enough times to get a detention seat with my name engraved on it
38% -- Every so often
12% -- Once . . . and only once
11% -- Never

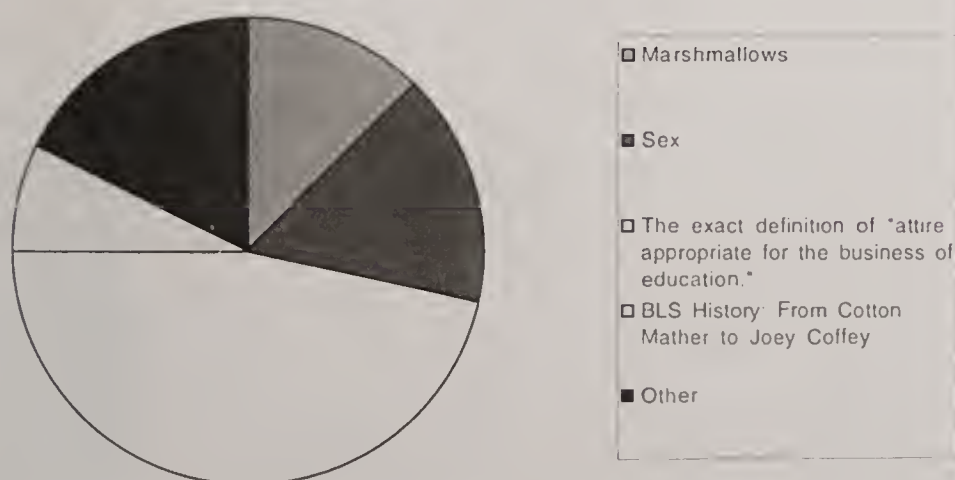
If you could be any Super Hero, which one would you be?

If you could be any superhero, which one would you be?

13% -- Batman
18% -- She-Ra
10% -- Superman
14% -- Wonderwoman
45% -- Other



If you could have an assembly on any subject what would it be?



If you could have an assembly on any subject, what would it be?

13% -- Marshmallows
16% -- Sex
46% -- The exact definition of "attire appropriate for the business of education" (with faculty examples)
8% -- BLS History: From Cotton Mather to Joey Coffey
18% -- Other

Our Favorite Teachers



Ms. Middleton

Writing a senior paper or a personal statement for college? Ms. Middleton is always willing to help, and this willingness to be there for her students makes her a favorite among the members of the Class of 2001. She's been a favorite each year in recent memory.

Mr. Izzo

Mr. Izzo is always a popular teacher among seniors. It can't be because he teaches a fun subject -- heck, the man has to be funny and interesting despite the fact that he's talking about Chemistry. But funny and interesting he is, and the droves of seniors rushing to take his class bear witness.

Mr. Aversa

Mr. Aversa only taught 30 seniors this year, yet he still is a favorite, as many remember his challenging but friendly style from all the way back in eighth grade. And no teacher is more involved -- anyone who's ever played a sport or participated in the arts has seen him in the stands.

Things We Wish We'd Done

Party more
sleep more
been more social
played saxophone
submitted to the Register
joined more clubs
made a greater impact/more change
step squad
more sports/clubs
relaxed and enjoyed myself more
JP boys on the friese...but I had nothing to do with that
done something productive
made more good friends in earlier grades
instead of 11 and 12
gone to Cancun
been more open-minded
had more fun
give more people a chance
gotten to know more people
cut more school
joined a sport
joined the Argo
played an instrument
girls basketball
affected more lives
been in a school play as an actor
told my teachers what I thought about them in their face
worked harder
public declamation
sports
tried out for a play
slept more
given Ms. Barbara a wedgie...oh! I could still do that!
played baseball
crack
leave
Glaugh
sleep more
left
gone on the roof
Dennis Ng
copulated in the elevator
talk to more people
slept less
public dec, win hockey states
a little work
better in the 10th grade
went somewhere else
nothing
been more outgoing
gotten durnk way more
made more good friends
just spontaneously get up in the middle of

the aisle in the auditorium and started dancing during one of Mrs. Kelley's speeches
sleep more
study less
hidden more during my studies
study more
managed to maintain my sanity
written BLS-the musical
been on step squad
placed more bologna on cars of faculty
made more lasting connections
been somewhere else/learned to spell
studied
get approbation with distinction
gotten into drama
cut more classes
join a sport
played sports
give Mr. O'Malley a heart attack
take a different foreign language
more time on the roof
ski trip in Italy
left
played sports
slept more
swimming at 4th floor pool
cheated more
studied
put goldfish in the windows
Gary
participate in more extracurricular activities
crocodile mile down the hall
more work
studied
acting/mock trial/cut more
learned
took art classes
learn Ms. Kelley's fashion
public declvamation
meet more people
bitch slapped barbara
skip school
put JP boys on the Frieze or more drugs
slept
had more fun
ART
studied more
slept
gotten drunk more with Kristen
started a coup d'etat
went out with Lauren Foley
honework
left after 7th grade
gone out with Lauren Foley
study more
Rob McLaughlin

Things We Wish We Hadn't Done

procrastinate
taken Economics AP
taken senior calculus with Mr. Luis
taken Government
taken math at all
in-house
homework
Ms. Kelley
worried so much about my grades
String Ensemble
cross-country track
slacked off
Latin AP senior year
made close friends
slacked off junior year
failed Algebra 1
taken so many AP's because they get you nowhere
stressed over unnecessary things
Physics AP
stayed
taken Chem II
taken Economics
met Kevin Shelley
taken Bio AP
stayed
thrown a snowball
taken Calculus
joined the band
thought
worried so much
strings with Ms. White
slacked off
fallen in love
slacked off
had so many random crushes
gotten distracted
study
slept at school
shown up
stuffed salami down my pants
gotten C's
taken Chinese
taken Economics with Mr. Bonds
so much work
become an alcoholic
lost track of people
procrastinated
taken Chemistry
stressed so much
nervous breakdowns
that "mangoes and kerosene" prank
taken Spanish
[expletive] up sophomore year
lost in hockey state finals
put up with Mr. Cahill

forged my mom's name on 7th grade report card
gone to school
stressed so much
taken economics
stayed
sewage odor
worked so hard
been taught by Mr. O'Malley or Ms. Johnson
taken Greek
studied so much
quit baseball
lost precious brain cells
taken Bio II
stayed in bad classes with bad teachers
been so damn obedient
come here
cheated
been competitive
taken Economics AP
worried so much
taken Economics AP with Mr. Bonds
stayed through senior year
taken Greek
let teachers humiliate me
been so lazy
stressed
got caught riding the elevator
stressed out so much
worked so hard
stressed so much
gotten shoved by Mr. Hannigan
argued with the headmaster
taken Chinese
taken US History AP
eaten the food
taken economics
met Ms. Johnson
hurt my knee senior year
slacked off
taken [expletive] from Dr. Carroll
walked through the doors
gone to all my classes
copulated in the elevator

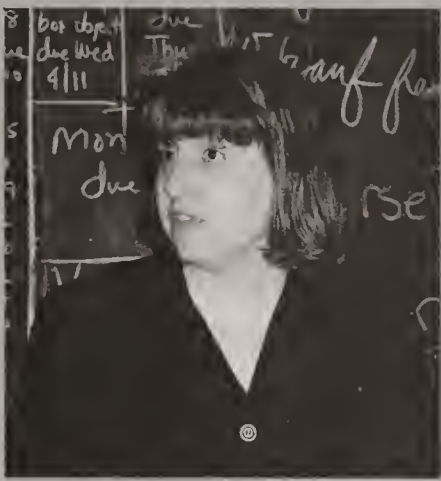
The Senior Questionnaire was distributed in April to all seniors. The Argo received over 100 replies. These responses came directly from the members of the class of 2001.

Our Favorite Teachers



Mr. Durant

Calculus is not popular. In general, neither are calculus teachers. But Mr. Durant breaks that rule, receiving almost a dozen votes despite having only one senior class. And no wonder. His caring style and complete inability to do arithmetic make him one of our favorites.



Ms. Freeman

Filling Idzik's shoes is not an enviable task, but Ms. Freeman did so admirably. Seniors will always remember that memorable trip to (and back from) Washington, as well as the pepper debate and the spirited classroom discussions. Plus, she's always available and interested to talk with students.



Dr. Carroll

It doesn't seem fair that the man in charge of senior prizes is eligible for this recognition, but Dr. Carroll would have received the votes anyway. His language students will always remember his affability and encyclopediac knowledge of all things Springsteen.

Best Memory

- Cuba trip
New Year's sophomore year
Prom
Senior year
Getting approbation
Meeting friends
Final Friday
Studies with Jesse Southwick
Drunken wiffleball at Clemente
Anytime away from teachers
Friends and Lovers
The last day of each school year
Senior year
Falling off of a new, unstable table
Wishing 10th grade wouldn't end
The broken water main
Ripping up cut slips with Dr. James
Mr. Idzik
Cancun
Mr. Montague
Junior year
Driving to the Cape for a beach party in May 2000
Abiner Vicente
Step Squad
Drama
Christmas Concerts before winter break
October 27, 2000—no school
MFA Art classes
Ms. Walter's class in 9th grade
Mr. Tedeschi's class in 10th grade
Kid from Holland
Senior cut day
Crucible cast party
Adaptation
JP Licks
None
Hockey team making the state finals
Lohan serenading Holly
2-3 studies a day in 8th grade
Ms. Middleton's class
Cutting class at Clemente
Days when you just sat and chilled
Friends and some teachers
Spring String Fling
Italy Junior Year
8th grade and Ms. Lewis
1999 BLS-31 Wayland-0
filling out senior questionnaires
getting nice
Writing AP class
Krutter
Being named captain of wrestling team
My friends
10/13/00 Golf Team's only victory
Jonah falling at that thing...high comedy
Seth stripping down to a speedo for his
- Humanities presentation
Making friends
Rally 2000
Show choir
Mr. Veiga's class
Homeroom 132
TAG shows
Bomb Scare Day
Escaping the hunt of Barbara when I don't have a pass
Graduating
Envie! Avec Jean Lue et Babette
Seth in a speedo
Marie screaming at Jonah
Music night
Getting a 93 on a seventh grade reading test—I persevered ever since
Assemblies—clapping forever
8th grade when I met Diem copulating in the elevator
Utility period
Rollerblading in the halls
Doing well in economics
Talking on a personal level with boyfriends
The election of Martin van Buren
Vacations
Beating English in '01
Junior prom guy picture
Leaving Tyrishma on the highway
Jonah slipping and falling with a box of Gatorade
Ice cream at Simmons
Joey Coffey in a kilt
BLS Sports
Kristin covering a bottle with yogurt, and watching Ms. Russo's face as she grapped it, not realizing it was covered in goop
The semi
Eighth grade
The squeals emitted from room 132 every Thursday afternoon
Finding \$5 on the ground one day
Playing baseball and hockey for Dave Coleman
Ninth grade
Anytime a teacher took my class outside
All the proms
Mr. Bronski playing Chinese jump rope in 7th grade
8th grade gym
Halloween costume day
PSAT/"Fight Club"/Red Sox/"Crimson Tide" day (October 1999)
Spazzing out at pretty much every Final Friday
The Board
Connections
Keeping (and then losing) my innocence

Worst Memory

- Sewage odor
Losing senior privilege
Having Ms. Johnson
I have to pick just one?
The smell
Finding that first strand of gray hair
Junior year
No toilet paper
Falling up the stairs ... multiple times
Getting an F
Sitting alone at lunch
Death of a friend
Tam's death
7th, 8th, and 11th grade Latin
Messing up my declamation
Mr. Mahoney's Bio class,
Copulating in the elevator
The administration
Mr. Akeson and his house
All the psycho bus drivers on the 57 charter bus
Those times when I had breakdowns
Dr. Yu's 9th grade Bio class
Comp Greek
Sophomore Semi
Failing Latin exam
Getting three of those orange stickers for not paying to park in the lot last week
Having to do Joe Coffey's job
Chris Colletta in a kilt
Failing Reading sixie year
Mice running rampant and dying in our school
October 4, 2000
All of junior year
710 days of 5:40 wakeups
Latin
When they tore down 012
Mr. Berger
Mr. Viega's class
BLS
Summer 2000
Sensitivity training after the Victor incident
Having Ms. Johnson twice
The Crucible
Wrestling freshman year
Math class every year
Mr. Mahoney
Christmas concert
2000 BLS-12, Wayland-13
A-Ke-Face
Dr. Yu
Mr. Lacroix's class, 9th grade
Latin AP (Virgil)
Physics class
In-house for cutting class at Clemente
- Those days with five tests, failing finals
All that monotomy
When a teacher yelled at me and made me cry
Getting busted for Senior Cut Day
Getting busted for starting a slam book sixie year
Being hungover in Economics for drunken wiffleball
Two deaths senior year
Mr. O'Malley
57 Charter Bus
AP U.S. History exam
Akeson not letting me get my lunch
Six years
Wishing 11th grade would end sooner
Math in general
Senior Cut Day (I didn't cut)
Varsity Softball with Coach Morris
Falling in love
Surviving U.S. History AP class
Mr. Viega's 10th grade Geometry class
My date with Mr. Flynn
The Slit ...
Cheating on Ms. Johnson's *A Passage to India* packet
Dealing with impossible teachers and administration
FRENCH!!!
Floor masters
The bathrooms
The "E" train
When Curious Liquids got replaced by an insurance agency
Being told I wouldn't get into college
Taking Economics
The day I threw up in Izzo's class—this year!
AP French Literature
Pre-calculus with Ms. Jennings
All those times I went home crying
My 3-day depression after getting rejected
Early Decision
Realizing that a lot of people are smarter than I am
When racial quotas were abolished
When my boyfriend's mom called at 3am the night he slept over
Being ostracized from the "Westie" crowd
Realizing that I only like 10% of our grade
Parking
All the stuff I couldn't finish
The Old Man and the Cafeteria
LaCroix (actually, I'm sort of over it)
Getting really angry and cynical on Senior Cut Day 2001

Some Alternative Superlatives

(as voted by the Class of 2001)

Most Likely to Become A Game Show Host

Brian Lohan

Kristen Fiore

Sexiest Earlobes

Steve Delosh

Rose Costello

Most Likely to Appear in the Alumni Magazine for Having Done Something Actually Important

Dennis Ng

Sinead Keegan

Most Likely to Change BLS for the Better

Mr. Montague

Anne Foley

Where Are They Now?

A Look At Some Departed Members of the Class of 2001

BY ANDREW BARR, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Four hundred something sixies entered Boston Latin in the fall of 1995. Fewer than three hundred will cross the stage on June 10 at Boston University. That's an extremely high attrition rate.

But, for many who remained at Boston Latin School for six years, those who chose not to represent more than a memory, more than a statement about the rigor and strictness of Boston Latin School. They are friends and neighbors, teammates and colleagues. And even though they are no longer among us, they were a part of the BLS story for all of us.

So, on the occasion of the graduation of the Class of 2001, we contacted several students who would have been members of the class. Many have moved on to truly interesting endeavors.

Ryan Hansen

After spending many years at Latin, Ryan left the school last year to attend ACC. Now 20, Hansen will graduate this year from ACC and attend Mass Bay Community College where he has pledged to be "loyal" in doing hard work and working towards a successful future.

Torin Francis

Torin, the tallest kid to ever walk these halls (I think!), is now a junior at Taper Academy. He is being recruited by DI colleges all over the place, but with his solid grades, Duke looks like a promising prospect.

Maura McHugh

Maura left her St. T's buddies at BLS in 7th grade. She has made a name for herself at Brookline High. She credits her choice of crew to her change in schools because most of her friends here did softball. Her dedication to crew got her recruited by the University of Wisconsin (yes Wisconsin!), a Division I School. She happily resides in West Roxbury and misses all her Latin friends.

Michael Gray

Mike is currently finishing up a very successful career at Weymouth High and heading to Northeastern in the fall to pursue a business degree and impress people with his booming car stereo system.

Casey Boyd

Casey is graduating this June from Newman Prep and heading to Framingham State in the fall. He's become a talented guitar player (see p. 26) and an excellent computer programmer and cartoonist.

Olivia Liff

Olivia is graduating from BB&N this year with high honors and will be attending Barnard College in the fall. She's still actively involved with crew and theater and sends best wishes to all her friends at BLS.

Leila Cohan

Leila left BLS for the Arts Academy after ninth grade. She majored in theatre there and will be attending Smith College in the fall.

Gracie Balbalola

Will be graduating from ACC this year, and attending Central Connecticut University.

Matt Okeefe

Well known for running into doors, wearing stupid stuff and other various deeds, Matt will be graduating from ACC this year and will be heading off to UMass Boston. He is however taking a year off to pursue his desire for film directing by working closely with a popular local director.

Marc Waterfall

After being asked to leave last year for "questionable" behavior at the sophomore semi, Marc will also be graduating from ACC this year. Next year he plans to attend Mass Bay Community College and to pursue his dream of becoming a gynecologist.

Ronni Richie

A world class karate instructor and just an overall tough guy, Ronni started out this year in Latin, but due to personal reasons, decided to leave the school for ACC. Ronni will graduate from ACC this year and next year plans to continue teaching classes and kicking asses in Hyde Park.

Ryan Tucker

Tucker also began this year at Latin, but during the year changed to ACC much like Ronnie. Ryan is a junior at ACC and he plans to graduate next year and attend school. Right now, his top choice is Bowline University.

Emily Williams

Left Latin after the ninth grade and moved to Bethesda, MD, a suburb of Washington D.C., as her father took a new job there. Emily has excelled at her new high school, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, involving herself in numerous clubs and activities, as well as a job at a Hair Salon. Next year, Emily will be entering Columbia University in New York City. I am certain that she will do as well there as she has throughout high school.

Giovanni Poles

Many people at Latin still remember Giovanni Poles, who left Latin after the tenth grade. When he left Latin, Gio, one of Dorchester's finest, went to the Fenway School, where he excelled, leaving Fenway in the top 10% of his class. He recently finished an internship on a sailboat, as part of his requirements for graduation from Fenway. He continues his employment at Courageous Sailing in Charlestown, a non-profit organization that teaches people to sail. He is taking a year off next year, after which he will attend UMass-Amherst. Though Gio has left Latin, his spirit remains with us. He has been survived at Latin by cousins Emily and Carla Poles.

Jessica Mullen

Jessica left BLS for the Arts Academy after ninth grade. She majored in theater there. Next year she plans to take a year off before going to college in the fall of 2002.

Notes from the Ombudsman

(continued again from page 11)

back up...this looks serious. 1...2...3...4...5...)
I feel like Roberto Duran after getting embarrassed by Sugar Ray Leonard. Somewhere Tallia Shire screams "You CAN'T win!"

(Diego: No mas...)

Round 4 (10th grade) I pass reach-back Bio! Woo-hoo! (6...7...8...9...He's Up! McCafferty's made it back to his feet!) I find out that if I pretend to be funny, people will pretend to like me. (McCafferty seems like he's caught his second wind, and is mounting some offense. This fight just got interesting folks)

Round 5 (Junior Year): My best friend leaves Latin School (Latin's got McCafferty set up and is getting ready to throw the finishing blow...)

...so I make NEW best friends to fill the giant gaping hole in my now blackened heart. Haha, take THAT child psychologists! (McCafferty dodges and lands a staggering uppercut! He's got Latin on the ropes. The crowd is fully behind this young upstart.

Latin (*translated from...Latin...*): He is like piece of steel! Grades begin to improve as I prepare for college. All the fly hunnies begin to sweat me.... that was a lie (McCafferty looks strong coming into the final round)

Final Round (Senioritis-Schmenioritis)I get into college (left by McCafferty!...)

...but it's UMass (he misses with the right...)

Moral is high as a I realize that I basically managed to make it through 6 years of English class without having ever read a book...or learning how to read and write for that matter (Latin's going down! Latin's going down!)

Ms. Kelley is forced to hand me a diploma as I take my place amongst such famous Latin alumni as John Adams, and John Hancock. Hahaha, suckers... ,

This is amazing. The spirit of Latin School has seemingly rolled over and died. I've just received word that somewhere Cotton Mather is spinning in his grave. We have a new champion! Let's take you inside the ring for some words with the champ...

So yeah. If I can change...and YOU can change, and all these people can change...then maybe the world can change. Maybe we can live in a world without classes, where the "elite" aren't separated from the "common" person. Where archaic institutions aren't feared for their unwavering ideals, but rather embraced for their ability to adapt and change and survive. Where people can sit on the floor in the cafeteria without getting detention!

...ahhhh screw it. Let's go get some fried chicken and get busy!

In Ten Years I Will Be ...

in Bermuda, the new Jane Goodall
in Boston
\$\$\$
playing baseball
living with my mom and dad...still
head of the International Otaku Alliance
married, independent, happy
older
not keeping in touch with this entire senior class
playing hockey
sitting in my garden
in the mirror
filmmaker/folksinger in NYC
rich, powerful, more wealth than you and I could imagine...quite a bit!
rich and very important
in NYC in some corporate office
working in a hospital, married, and with a kid on the way
rich and famous
somewhere in Boston living happily ever after
waitressing
a civil engineer-bull dozing
starting a career in public service
in a medical residency
in a hospital
a successful business woman
a lawyer/judge

copulating in the elevator
in under pants
happier
surrounded by drag queens
an anchorwoman with 2 kids and hubby
in a mental institution, recovering from BLS trauma
either in medical school or law school
in a van down by river
in New England
a successful businessperson/married
not in school
heading a covert government agency
married and working as a successful psychologist
living in Kevin Mann's east wing
living dirt poor in a village loft
in school
blind
buying out BLS and turning it into a chicken and waffle shack
getting nice
selling toilet paper for 5 cents in front of the school
in Uganda
rich and happy
Beth Israel's Emergency Room
far, far away from BLS
a family lawyer and married

rich and successful
someplace far away
still in school
a famous journalist
in Hawaii
a social activist living the good life
sittin phat down south!
probably in the mirror
filthy rich and married to a gorgeous guy
a researcher of medicinal plants
getting my doctorate
happy
in Congress
married, kids, nice house, mad money
not around BLS
married in Maryland
happy and successful
a poor starving human rights activist
traveling Latin America (like Che Guevara)
earning a PhD degree or making six digits on a ship
in a mansion
graduating med school—broke and happy
sipping coffee with Winona Ryder on Mars
a well paid pediatrician
anywhere but here
touring the world as a rock star
a famous fashion designer

at a carwash
in New York City—a hot shot lawyer
president of the United States
a lawyer
happy
traveling and enjoying life
in a cardboard box in an alley
not close to here
back at BLS teaching English
working, making lots of money
parcticing law
making \$\$\$ and albums
working and successful
making naked performing art
still in therapy
international spy and/or terrorist
away from Barbara
starting my own business
teaching somewhere
successful
only eight years older (through the miracle of time travel)
in Spain with some awesome job meeting my beau for lunch
a rich and famous animator with beachfront property in Malaysia
the way things are going right now, probably
sitting in this same damn swivel chair in the stiflingly hot Mac Lab

Most Important Thing Learned

You have to work for things and earn respect
What to do without toilet paper
Take care of yourself because no one else will
How to laugh even when this school tries to ruin you
to ignore everything I've learned here and start over
Don't sweat the small things
How to respect teachers in the hall
Anything is possible
Be myself and value friendship
How to cheat
To be able to write a paper on things I don't know
It's better to cheat than to repeat
How to write long watery essays
I have learned to work without much sleep
Friends help make school worthwhile
Endurance(what doesn't kill you can only make you stronger)
Time management
To not let anything affect me, ever
The value of a good education
How to live on 3 and 1/2 hours of sleep
To be a good procrastinator
Learning with one's eyes closed is shockingly effective
How to grow up, no excuses
Copy homework
Get by and succeed with only doing the minimum
No matter how down you are, there are always others who are worse off
To pick my battles
How to fall asleep with your eyes open
Who the first nine presidents were
That you really have to strive for what you want
You can weasel your way out of anything
How to do a lot of work in a small amount of time
Hard work pays off and this school is all about politics
How to write essays for history tests(Dr. Lambert)
2+2=4
To be yourself
Never leave out the front door with lots of people
Not to care
Most people are mean in real life and cheating is common in high school
2+2 does not equal 4 and there is a number "e"
Choose friends carefully
You need good supportive friends
How to waste time, how to do the smallest

amount of work
Don't drink the water. don't breathe deeply
It's not that hard, nothing about school really matters in life
Omnia Gallia in partes tres divisa est (yeah, right)
How to get nice
I've learned to love, to think, and, from Mr. Coleman, that you can only break a femur with another femur
Life is more important than any grade, test, teacher, or disciplinary penalty
People judge each other --it's a fact of life but don't base who you are on those judgments
procrastination skills
The world is not nice
How to procrastinate
Work ethic, cultural and racial awareness
How to deal with unaccomodating , unrational people
Discipline in life is success
What kind of people I want to be friends with, how to multi task
Spanish
Dotting your i's is overrated
To be given nothing, and still do incredible things
CPCTC
How to work under the system
That some people can be horrible friends but some can be your best friends for life
How to cram for tests
This is BLS not BLT, OK bebe
The names and tastes of all things Starbucks
Some teachers are really cool and want to help you
How to B.S. on cue
Survival
Persistence
what a penis looks like
Life is b.s., deal with it
the square root of seventeen
Sink or Swim
Dealing with pressure and stress
The best way to write a paper is the period before it's due
Bring your own toilet paper to school
How to write college papers (taught by Mrs. Middleton)
I have learned that education is what the learner takes from classes
The only person who can stand in your way is yourself
Common sense gets you no where
To be outgoing
How to survive on no sleep and a little Starbucks

How to get away with everything (lie)
No matter how overloaded you feel, there will always be more work for you to do
Students do not have power until they become alumni
Carry tissues with you because there's never any toilet paper
You are not smart at all, you are actually very stupid
Fac, vacca, lac - Ms. Durkin
bathrooms don't always have toilet paper
The two nicest words in the English language,

the king's English, from Mr. Doherty
Wipe down the toilet seats before using them
How to deal with difficult people
Life is unfair, so learn to deal with it
Just enjoy, work takes care of itself, really
Money gets you places
Talk, ask questions, don't take chem til Senior year
How to be a playa
Importance of Procrastination
That at any given moment, someone, somewhere, is trying to screw you over

Least Important Thing Learned

How absolutely rancid the smell of sulfur is
The 5th declension
That dead language Latin
Dr. O'Leary was Ms. Kelley's uncle
the Canterbury Tales in Olde English
Anything I ever learned from Bonds
Algebra
Cover my textbooks to keep them looking new
How to brown-nose
Physics
Economics and Latin
How to differentiate and integrate
People aren't as good as they think they are
Science
Mice poop, too
this school sucks
Statistics
math
agricola, -ae, m, farmer
Math, science, and Latin
A lot, but maybe scansion
Not to visit my locker during R5
Semper ubi sub ubi
Cicero
How to use all of the charts in the back of the stats book
Greek Tradition
Anything Ms. Johnson taught
Pre-calculus
Obedience
The 1st declension
That you're supposed to be honest
Anything from Ms. Johnson's class
Any type of history
The square root of 17

Anything I was told by a headmaster
Wait, there was something else?
How to determine the change in free energy
My multiplication tables
Beer before liquor...thanks a LOT, Ms. [deleted]
The word cocalorum means self-important little man
Systems applications
Economics with Mr. Bonds
Anything I had to memorize
How to conjugate -io verbs
There are 320 light bulbs in the auditorium
How to sleep with my eyes open
French
Facing History
How to cheat so well without the guilt
CPCTC
Fac vaca lac
How to fold notes
Geometry
Anything regarding calculus
Statistics
Electrochemistry
Everything else
Civics
BLS school spirit
Nuclear chemistry
Everything
What a molar relationship is
That class rank matters
Ventosa viri restabit: Ms. Durkin's AP Catullus class
Lessons about the real world
Dr. Karydas had hypothermia
How to manage my time and count past 100

The Argo Staff Says Goodbye

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| <div>Editors-in-Chief</div> <div>Some thank you's: -to my fearless co-editor for guidance, wisdom, support, and ride home after ride home after ride home. -to the staff of the Argo, who made us look like capable editors every issue. -to Mr. Gwiazda, who put up with us and fixed stuff when we broke it. Which was all the time. Oh, and bought us food. -to Ms. Palmer, who was always there to fix the other stuff we broke, as well as to provide leadership and guidance. -to Jack Pow for being patient. -and most especially, to Mr. Tyner. Here's a guy who should hate us. We keep him from going home until 11:00 on Final Fridays. We're messy, we're noisy, we produce more garbage than Kazakhstan. Yet Mr. Tyner always has a kind word for us. I can only hope to live my life with that kind of patience. The media is the way people remain connected to their societies. I've been privileged to see that firsthand this year. So to the next crew to lurk in the MaqShaq, let me just leave with you the same desire to bring people together. And, oh yeah: I think we left some old Doritos in the third drawer of the cabinet. Sorry. -Andy</div> | <div>News</div> <div>So as not to stray from tradition, and because I have nothing better to write, here is a News Editor's will to the seniors who have made this year's Argo happen. Becca Tumposky - a new middle name: Becca "Pandora" Tumposky. Andy Barr - a coupon for a free ad on the window of Babushka Deli. Max Eskin - a collection of DDT albums, a personal MacLab to play them in. Jonah Birch - a night with Che Guevara. Rose Costello - a senior issue printed in color. Ryan DiAngelis - a conservative co-editor. Jon Gass - a dictionary of Russian obscenities. Odevaisya, mudak! Kaitlyn Jolly - A Guide to Newspaper Layout. One day of not being confused with Katy – um, Ally. Joe Christiani - actual official photo requests. Han Y, - an Argo page entitled "The History of Fluevogs". Matt Erlich - a bottle of Smirnoff, so that he can always remember his genealogical roots. Jeremy Jackson - page 18. Printed in the right direction. Erin Burke - an issue devoted to what she thinks of the Calculus AP test. Betty Ho - department editors who can do layout all by themselves. Chris Coletta - the MacLab printer for one whole night. Ryan Montoya - drawing requests made BEFORE Final Friday. Yasmin Pena (for all her wonderful commitment to the fine publication that is Argo) – a chance to fight Jonah to the death over who gets the night with Che Guevara. Use your gifts wisely, and if everything else fails, remember the wise saying: "Let's get p*** drunk!" -Eugene</div> | <div>who soar to high heights. "You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed. You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest". —Dr. Seuss I'm going to miss all of you guys. ... Thanks for a great six years! To my fellow Argonauts—you're all awesome. The Argo was amazing this year—I think we all deserve a pat on the back. Jonah and Mimi...you guys were the best people to work with—thank you. And to all my friends, who've been with me for the past six years—I love you guys. "There are no goodbyes. Wherever you may be, you'll be in my heart." -Ryan</div> | <div>It's people like this entire Argo staff, especially Andy and Becca who got pushed to the brink of insanity when me and Greg were together, I know I must thank because without them, I might have lost my identity as a writer. I have to thank you all, who have helped, supported, loved, hated, admired, resented, and guided me through this school because without you, my personality would be lost. Good luck everyone, and while our smiles mix with our tears remember the past six years and all you've gained. I know that without you all, I would have nothing. -Erin</div> |
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| <div>To be honest, I originally joined the Argo so that I would be able to write one of these things someday. I remember sitting next to my brother at an Argo meeting in seventh grade, wondering if someday, I would ever have as much ownership over this place as Nancy Poon did. Senior year was the first year that I ever felt any sort of ownership of this school. Being Co-Editor-in-Chief of this periodical was one of the best experiences I have had during my career here, and one that I will probably never have again. I don't really know how to sum up my last six years, so I would like to take this time to thank some of the people who challenged me, supported me, and gave me a break when I needed one: Thank you Ms. Insanally, for giving me the best Latin foundation I could have asked for; Mr. Kaufman for an awesome Civics class and for occasionally letting me sneak in to school a few minutes late; Mr. Tedeschi for being such a cool guy; Ms. Jennings for letting me slide by with a C- last year, Ms. Freeman for a great FHAO experience; Ms. Durkin for enlightening me, and taking us to the Harvard Club; the State Troopers on Park Drive for not ticketing my car when I park illegally; the cast and crew of Adaptation, the Argo staff for making Final Fridays fun (like a colonoscopy); Mr. Aversa for letting me into Humanities; Ms. Palmer for being so helpful with the Argo and with my college essay, and for being so awesome in general; "The Gwazmanian Devil" for putting up with the chaos and viruses that the Argo staff brings each day to the Mac Lab; Ms. Craddock for letting me into Ari AP which was certainly one of the highlights of my academic career; my parents; Mr. Montague; Mr. Gaskill; Ms. Ullian; the admissions committee at Oberlin College; and of course, "the L.A. City Bus Department, for taking a chance on an unknown kid." On that note, I am giving it over to you, Celia. Good luck, and remember to have fun with it. Signing off, this is Rebecca Tumposky. Thank you, and goodnight. -Becca</div> | <div>Forum</div> <div>Anyways, as Forum Editor, I think it is my place first and foremost to remind everyone that I don't smile. This year was hard, but what really kept me going was looking forward to all of those all-night Final Fridays. I know I bored the hell out of all of you with those random Marxisi rants, but what can I say, I was nice most of the year. Not really. Latin's a real screwed up place, and the teachers/adminisiration are generally ridiculous, and it's really screwed some people up. But I'm in a good mood (I'm listening to Common's "Resurrection"), and I need to remind myself that there are also some madd cool kids, and on that note, I would like to say peace to all those with obscure nicknames, like Enigmatic, Propheic, Jesus (Jailbait), Tre Bam McSpic, Jizza, and Shady, and even to those without obscure nicknames. Yeah. So peace. -Jonah</div> | <div>A & E</div> <div>I thought that this article would be easy to write. For some reason the connection between my brain and my fingers is malfunctioning. Words never come easy for me when it comes time to say goodbye. It's scary to think that the only stable thing in my life for the past six years will soon be gone. Don't get me wrong, I'm on cloud 9 just thinking about leaving Latin school, but parting from the relationships I have formed will be the hardest part. Ben Harper says it best, "Its so hard to do and so easy to say, but sometimes, sometimes you just have to walk away." I wish I could borrow a bit of his courage right now. To all my friends who have kept my head level, thank you. You have taught me that I do have something to come home to. To my "white wall" crew, I know I will always be connected with you guys. All you crazy drama peeps have kept me laughing and I know I will see you all in the limelight someday. Happy trails to you all and keep smiling This school isnt a friendly place, but Mr. Aversa, Ms. Teasdale and Ms. Durkin, you are among the few who are an exception to the rule. You have taught me so much not only about academics but also about life. I can't express my gratitude enough. As far as Latin School is concerned, don't expect any money when I become rich and famous. -Jon</div> | <div>This is to all the peeps who have had a part in making J-skilzz over the years. My memories of the Pack will always be vivid and easy to access. I came into Latin thinking that it was better than going to a prep school, because it was more like a "real world" experience, with diversity and what not. Now, I'm realizing that that assumption was totally wrong. Going to Latin is different than the "real world," because it makes the students used to dealing with incredibly competent and confident peers. I know that the "real world" probably won't be as exciting and intellectually stimulating as my time here, but I'll always have the memories. (Unless I get the Memento disease (see the movie)). Argo: Becca and Andy, you guys are two of the most amazing administrators and organizers I've dealt with. Erin, you're exuberance and brightness saved my cynical look at sports. Greg and Lindsey, you guys made it happen. Jonah, I'm sure we'll all be hearing your politics in the years to come, and you'll probably be right once in a while. To all the sorry attempts at food runs over the last year: you could never top the BloddyGimpy's and J-Skilzz' tandem. Thanks D-Nice for ditching me and Johnny B in the middle of Brighton at 2:30 in the morning. And everyone else who contributed to the hysteria in his own way. It's been real. Peace. -JJ</div> |
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| | | <div>Sports</div> <div>I have to thank you all. There really was a point in time when I thought I couldn't stand one more second in this 'horribly foul' school but its people like you who save my outlook on life and make me realize this school has not just 'completely sucked.' It's people like my mom and dad who put up with their spoiled little brat I know I must thank because they sat and let me grow up for myself through all my tantrums and outbursts of frustration. It's people like my close friends who have been unconditional in their watching over me I know must thank because without them, I do not think I would be sane. It's teachers like Mr. Duran, Mr. Montague, Mr. Bunker, and Mrs. Trainor who never fail to keep me smiling or ask what's wrong when a smile is absent I know I must thank because without them, my outlook on life might have destroyed me. It's people like my swim coaches and track coaches who have pushed me harder than I could ever push myself I know I must thank because without them, I would never be an athlete of any caliber.</div> | <div>Ed. Page</div> <div>It was an honor to be the first Editorial Page Editor of the Argo. Although at times I felt superfluous and frustrated, I have learned so much about journalism and life in general from my work this year. Thank you to everyone on the staff. During my six years at Latin School I have felt equally (and more) superfluous and frustrated many times. Looking back it seems like a blur; even the terrible moments have been sugar coated by memory. I am unbelievably relieved and proud that it is finally over, that I have succeeded. Many people contributed to my success; I would like to take this time to thank them. My friends who have been great, always there to listen to me blow off steam (an alarmingly regular occurrence). My parents who gave me a love and respect for learning that has helped me through even the most pointless of classes. Those teachers who really cared and helped me through everyday. And maybe even the school for teaching me so much about life and pressure (through good and bad example). Thank all of you for reading. It's been a wonderful year. -Rose</div> |
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I am not really sure how to sum six years, or a third of my life, in just a few words. But, I can say that my time here at BLS has been truly rewarding and more important than I will ever realize.

As I try to remember bits and pieces of my last six years here, I can't believe that I will graduate in 3 weeks. The BLS experience has been so familiar and ever-present that it's hard to imagine the future, but like many, I am ready to move on. People often complain about the many pitfalls of this school, but yet I appreciate both the good and not-so-good times here and believe that in the end it has been worth it.

To all the people who have made a positive difference in my life, I say thank you, thank you, thank you, especially my teachers and mentors who have taught me some of the most important lessons of my life, my friends whom I have the greatest pleasure of knowing, and my family who are always there rooting me.

-Betty

I like to be pessimistic. Pessimism is like aspirin for idealists. But even so, I have to say, it's been a good year, both in general and at the Argo. More than that, it's been a good six years. Every so often, I stop and think about just how amazing my luck has been, to be in a class with such people and to have made it through this long. People say that the school is a mess, but I don't buy that. That would be turning my back, and even when I turn my back, I'm peeking over my shoulder, just out of curiosity.

I've put a lot of time into the Argo this year. I don't think people understand why, and I don't really understand why either. I guess it's a rare chance to see people outside of class, and work with them on something that actually matters to both of us. I wish school could be that too, but you can't have everything.

I guess we're all here pretty much at random. I mean, nobody knew when any of us were born that we would be sitting together in the Maclab. When the last foot clears the stage at graduation, and our names cease to show up together on attendance lists, I may become just as on the outside as I have ever been. I guess I have to accept that. When I see my classmates again, they will be different, and so will I. So that's why it's so much like jumping off a cliff to say goodbye. It's not "see you next time" anymore, it's "god be with ye, because I won't." Or maybe I'm wrong. I don't know. Things never turn out the way I think they will. So here I go . . . goodbye, and thank you for what can only be described as "everything," and remember to be happy and optimistic . . . sometimes those are the hardest things in the world.

-Max

The Argo staff would like to thank everyone for reading this year, and would like to wish the best of luck to the class of 2001!

General Staff



Argo senior staff (L-R), starting from bottom: Andy Barr, Becca Tumposky, Jon Gass, Greg Porter, Lindsay Conlin, Kaitlyn Jolly, Jonah Birch, Erin Burke, Jeremy Jackson, Eugene Kreydin, Max Eskin, Karyn Rautenberg, Rose Costello, Dave Paquet-Whall, Caroline Gaudet, Ryan DiAngelis, Joe Coffey, and Johnny B. Greene (not a senior, but cool, nonetheless). Not pictured: Liz Arias, Joe Christiani, Han Yu, Ryan Montoya, Chis Colletta, Matt Erlich, Diego McCafferty, Suzanne Chan, Betty Ho, Devon Rueckner, Dennis Ng, and Lee Guo

Well, it's been a hell of a ride, but it's finally over. I remember reading last years senior issue of the Argo and wondering when I would get my chance at writing a farewell message. It seemed like an eternity away back then and I think I have still yet to realize the full impact that I am finally out of this place!

If I were to leave one peace of advice to those poor souls who are still here it is this; although some of you might hate some of your teachers, you'd be best to keep your thoughts and actions to yourself. Although you know that some teachers here are being jerks on purpose, they are still the ones with the power and the people who can screw you over. Play their game for now and then once get out of here, maybe you can write an angry letter or come back and bitch them out. Believe me when I say, do your best to keep your nose clean while you are here. There are only a handful of teachers here that will stick up for students.

And now for the thanks, and there are a lot of them. To all the Argo staff, I have ultimate respect for all of you. It is not easy to put this paper together but we find the time to do it, even with Erin and I racing down the halls with the new chairs. To the Class of 2001 and all my friends (of course there are just too many to list!) I wish you the best of luck in all your lives. To Caroline for making a dreadful year fun. To Mr. Fulton, Mr.Keitt, Mr. Bonds, Mr. Montague,Mr Devaney, Ms. Daly, my whole family and all those who I have forgotten for helping me make it this far.

That's all folks! Goodbye and once again kudos to all my fellow graduates for making it through here and to be still sanding on two feet! Hansen! Peace.

- Greg

Senior Good Byes huh? Normally I would take this opportunity to voice my extreme disregard for this sick institution and its archaic rules, tradition and pretension (not to mention a large chunk of it s faculty.) But, I am determined not to come off as a total downer, preaching about how BLS stifles young minds and stomps their idealism and potential into oblivion. Not here, not now. That's for my personal letter to "you know who".

I harbor an overwhelming amount of respect for everyone who made it out of here alive. For those of you, who, over the course of six years, rose to the occasion and kicked Latin in the ass, I am in utter awe of you. You took the challenge, and triumphed, and are now able to sit back, relax, and flip to bird in the face of adversity. And for those of you, like myself, who happened to be on the receiving end of most of that ass kicking, we're better people because of it. And taking our last look at this building will be all the more sweet.

Hands down the best thing about Latin was the people I have come to know and admire. On that note, I'd like to give some major shout outs:

To JCC Crew; Cuba 2001; The Big Tease; Mr. Fernandez; Mr. Montague; Ms. Ponte; Mrs. Craddock; all the chicas in Spanish AP; Crads class; my boys on the wrestling team; drama club heads, especially all the "Lovers and Strangers"; to my H.I.T.s: Lydia, Katie B, and Mari; to the two other people (you know who you are) who got screwed over by a certain English teacher junior year; to my bro who will get out of here someday; to the JP boys and Co.; Tom, the sexiest junior around (besides Regal); to my sis; to Liv, who got out of here while there was still time; to the senior girls in Jennings'

I don't know exactly how to say this without being extremely corny, but I feel so honored and grateful to be a part of this production. Not because it's important and I earn any praise for it, but because it's fun. The people here are like a family, they are probably the best friendships I've formed or renewed this year. So I just want to say thank you to everyone involved, because you've made this truly a memorable experience. Your quick wit, intelligence, jokes, verbiage and computer skills continue to amuse, fascinate and interest me. (I can't put it in less words guys, I love you!) It is for these reasons that even after a hard wrestling practice, a long game or just a long day, I still return to the Mac Cave to dedicate and enjoy many evenings of Argo fun. (Yes, I said Argo fun.)

As for everything else here at Latin, I've had my frustrations, my tears of joy and my tears of pain. This year has been the best and the worst of them, the trials of life have beaten me nearly senseless, but thank god for my saviors... my friends. My everything was so consumed with the fires of hate (especially last year) that I could hardly see just how beautiful life is. (And believe that it IS beautiful.) You've got to believe all these stupid stories and sayings, like "one test isn't worth crying over," "take a deep breath, one thing at a time," and "you'll end up exactly where you're supposed to be." Treat these like laws of mathematics or science that can scarcely be proven wrong, for so confident am I in them now. And don't let any one thing control your life, for the mind is so often contorted. It should be free to expand as you choose; study what you love, do what you have to, run when YOU choose, and you'll always be free. In the end, all that matters is your happiness. Never let anyone think that you shouldn't be happy.

-Karyn M. Rautenberg

It has been a long time since we first stepped foot in the "hollowed" halls of this "prestigious" school, and with all my heart I cannot wait to walk out of those big green doors, a student for the last time. At the same time however, the flood of emotions that comes with it seems too overwhelming.

From seventh to eighth and suddenly now at the end of twelfth grade, I want to thank sincerely and with all my deepest gratitude all of the teachers at BLS who take an interest in their students and care about not just the student but the person. You are few and far between, but you have truly made such a profound impact at a time when our minds are so malleable. Going to class and knowing that you will be comforted instead of punished is so important in a school that lacks support.

On the flip side, the biggest source of support and love that I have found here has been my classmates. We've been through so much, both good and bad. Each one of you has changed of affected me in some way, and have helped me to grow. I have so much respect for each of you and am honored to be a part of the class of 2001. Congratulations and good luck wherever you may end up. And at graduation, "...look to the left of you and look to the right of you," and know that we have all made it to the end of this road together. Thank you with all my heart to the class of 2001 and farewell.

-Lindsay

class; to my hoochies, Mandy, G and Vic; and finally to all the sexy males I have fallen in love with: you may or may not know who you are, but there are many.

Peace.

-Kait

Senior Spotlights



Mike Doherty

By GINA M. BRUNO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whitey? He's just wicked white. Word.

You can always catch Whitey getting a coffee from Jimmy's canteen truck or aimlessly wandering the halls of BLS during class. He freely admits, "I don't do a damn thing at school," but his presence is nonetheless vital to his friends and peers. His derision and dry humor would seem overwhelming if it were not for his charm and laughter.

Although he chooses to distance himself from the extra-curricular circle of BLS, he stays active with other organizations. Whitey has played midfield in the Charlestown Lacrosse League for the last four years. He also works part-time at the historic swan boats and is a certified lifeguard. If you happen to be in Charlestown on a quiet Friday evening, do not be surprised to see a barefooted Whitey guarding the City Square fountain, making it a safe place to swim for all his comrades.

Whitey spends a great deal of his time working with diabetic children. A diabetic himself, Whitey volunteers at the Joslin Diabetes Clinic in the Longwood Medical Area. He is also a counselor at the Elliot P. Joslin Summer Camp for Diabetic Boys in Charlton, MA, and has been for the past two years, after having been a camper there himself for eight years. Whitey has never let his diabetes make decisions for him. "I just suck it up," he says, "I don't use it as an excuse."

Next year Whitey will be joining a slew of BLS alumni at UMass Amherst, where he intends to major in Chemistry. He is very open to new ideas and may eventually shift to Biochemistry or a field even further from his initial base goals.

Although Whitey is sharp and quick-witted, "you guys" can easily detect his sincerity and thoughtfulness. He gives great hugs free of charge, and is always up for a jaunt to J.P. Licks. He'll even check his blood sugar levels on the steps of our nation's capital while a certain FHAO teacher sweats as she awaits a potential arrest. Whitey is always the first to tell an off-color joke to evoke a smile – the first to offer you a piggyback ride to the absolute top of the world.



My Dzi Le

By ANNE FOLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My Dzi is one of the few people that I can say I've been friends with since sixie year. She is so quiet that you could be in a class with her and not even realize it, but don't let that fool you. She is extremely modest.

Even as I am talking to her about this spotlight, she is telling me how she doesn't think anything she does is all that great. I, on the other hand, am amazed by her many accomplishments.

One of the things My Dzi focuses a great deal of her time and effort on is science and engineering. This year she takes both Physics I and Chem AP and does well in both. Outside of school, she, along with Ryan Montoya (also of Class I), has been involved in research projects at the Forsyth Institute and some of her work is in the process of being published, which is a very significant accomplishment in the science world.

She is also a part of the award winning NU-TRONS Robotics team and she traveled with the team to Epcot this past April where they won the FIRST Robotics Nationals. During the competitions, she helps operate the robot and come up with strategies for the complicated game it plays against the other robots, and at the Nationals this year, their robot got the highest score in a single match in the whole competition.

Science isn't the only thing on My Dzi's mind, though. She also takes United States History and Economics APs, as well as Calculus BC. She keeps on top of these (and the requisite senior English class), as well as her two science courses, and gets good grades (like any other NHS member, she would like to avoid a "nasty-gram" from Mrs. Shevlin). She also still has time to work on layout for the Register and helps with the technology aspect of publishing the magazine.

Next year, My Dzi will be heading down to Carnegie-Mellon University for school and I have every confidence that she will be very successful there. She is one very accomplished girl that I'm glad that I got the chance to get to know over the last six years.



Eugene Kreydin

By MAX ESKIN, I
FORUM LAYOUT EDITOR

Eugene is one of those people whom you can always come up to and pick up a conversation right where you left it off several days or weeks ago. That, and the fact that we're both Russian immigrants, has I think bound me to him more than to most other people in the class. I first met him in our 9th grade Biology class, where he was a B-sie with not-so-good English. Us Russians can pride ourselves on our education yet again: Biology class was a cinch for Eugene. He seemed a bit aloof then, and exuded the air of a nuclear physicist, especially when explaining his science project.

The next year, I took gym with Eugene. We talked rather often, sometimes actually getting off the benches and participating in something. Eugene is not the type who is stopped by fear of looking stupid: he has no need for such a fear because he never looks stupid, even doing such undignified things as playing wiffle ball. At that time, Eugene was already volunteering at the Brigham & Womens' hospital, dealing with mammograms. Among us immature sophomores, this was naturally a subject of much amusement. Eugene never shuns a joke, and we've had many laughs through the years on just about every theme imaginable.

While earning nearly straight A's, Eugene continued to volunteer. He stopped going to BWH, and began to volunteer for the mayor's office. He also began to work for the Argo a year before I did. When I went to take my senior pictures, I ran into Eugene there (cheap Russians do the low option package), and he was dressed up for a Mayor's summit at the Fleet Center. I asked him if he was getting paid for it. He was still volunteering. It occurred to me that Eugene is one of the least materialistic people I know. He is also easy-going. I have never seen him angry, frustrated, or otherwise in a bad mood.

It is hardly startling that as one of the hardest working, most honest, and brightest of my classmates, he is going to Harvard. I wish him well, and I hope that he goes where no Russian has gone before.

Nnenna Ude

By GINA BRUNO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Nnenna (pronounced NEE-na, for those of you who have yet to meet her) is armed with her father's credit card and she is not afraid to use it. This Hyde Park native makes her presence very known with her cynical laughter and innocent teasing. She's not just a pretty face; she spends her few free hours in service to her community and as a full-time armchair psychiatrist – all with the help of her good friends



purple borders of BLS, she tutors at the Hyde Park Community Center and is an active member of her youth group at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan.

Ralph, Calvin and Giorgio.

Nnenna is an honors student and a proud member of the National Honor Society, whose values she carries with her every day. However, before she pulls a late-night study session for A.P. History, she is busy at school practicing for the Fashion Talent Club or working with minority students in Young Leaders of Color. Beyond the

This former member of AKS values her Nigerian heritage and places important emphasis on family and friends. She traveled to Nigeria recently (and brought back fabulous souvenirs!) and hopes to return after graduating from Dartmouth College to establish pediatric medical facilities for disadvantaged families. She intends to employ her soon-to-be-acquired abilities in the field of medicine to sprout a similar clinic in Boston.

Although Nnenna professes, "There's not much more I do besides shop," she merely displays her own modesty and humility. Her cell phone is a crisis hotline and her e-mailbox is full of jokes and advice. The folks at DKNY may indeed know her by name, but her loyalty and compassion spread her fame so much more.

Douglas Le

By REBECCA TUMPOSKY, I
Co-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It was Doug who taught me that there is more than one kind of school spirit. There is the "ra ra purple and white!" kind, and there is the kind that is focused not so much on sporting events or MCAS scores, but on making the school a vibrant, cohesive and supportive community. Doug has given back so much to the BLS community, and his presence will certainly leave a mark long after he leaves.

Most known for his involvement in the Gay/Straight Alliance, even as a ninth grader, he had an unusual charisma and presence, and his energy to organize and make things happen within this organization was both captivating and

inspiring. While he does not wish to be referred to as the "President" of the GSA, Doug has consistently been a leader; just recently a student/ forum something successfully any BLS is not the has been a also the chapter of International, a group that works to raise awareness about people who have been wrongfully imprisoned or otherwise deprived of their civil and human rights. Over the summer, he was a Ward Fellow, and worked as part of a non-profit group that collaborated with the District Attorney's office to



he organized and led teacher discussion about gay issues, that has never been carried through by student before.

His work in the GSA only way in which he social activist. He is President of the BLS A m n e s t y

prevent child abuse. During junior year, he volunteered at an Americorps program, which took children from the DOT house to visit the elderly at nursing homes.

Doug's artistic abilities cannot be ignored, either. As someone who loves to work with wood and power tools, he has constructed incredible sets for *The Crucible* (during which he was given the affectionate nickname "Doug-E-Fresh"), *Adaptaion*, and *Interview*. Dazzling friends with his ability to carry a nine-foot cello on the #39 bus, Doug has also been a member of the String Ensemble since seventh grade.

"Busting his hump" junior year with four AP classes has certainly done him well and paid off in the end. Doug turned down full scholarships to Swarthmore and Boston University, as well as NYU and Tufts, to attend Columbia University next fall, where he is ecstatic about the idea of spending four more years with Jonah Birch! I have no doubt that Doug will continue to do fabulous work and inspire people with his creative spirit and active energy, as he has done at BLS. Look out Harlem!



Max Eskin

By Andrew Barr, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Some people go through Boston Latin School and manage to never lose their independent nature and creativity. Some people go through Boston Latin School and come out the other side with a rich base of knowledge that will help them achieve for the rest of their lives. Rarely, however, does one person fall into both groups.

Maksim Eskin, better known as Max, is one of those people. Those who have always known Max aren't surprised when they see him whip up a biting satire or a moving poem. He's always had a sharp eye for the absurd, dating back to his early days at Boston Latin School. But recently, that sharp eye has come into the public eye. Max's work has been featured in this newspaper, ranging from an editorial on missile defense to a thoughtful piece on school climate. And later this month, his poem "Happiness" will appear in the Spring issue of the Register.

But in the opinion of this scribe and Eskin associate, Max has done an awful lot with his Latin School education. He thinks nothing of scribbling a classical ode to, say, the bathroom on the third floor, or a parody of the Iliad. Heck, this scribe can't even successfully decipher the Iliad, but Max's parodies always seem masterfully written.

Max is also well-known by anyone who's been in the Mac Lab during Argo production. Whenever something computer-related breaks, it's his name that is invoked and his hands that soothe the savage servers. His technical brilliance even landed him a job working with Mr. Idzik, producing a web business only known as "romsky.com,"

Beatnik-epic poet, Mac Lab panacea, Idzik protege: Max wears many hats. And as he heads off to Cornell next year, he will no doubt find many more to wear and many more things to write about.



Lauren Foley

By Patricia Courtney, I
Contributing Writer

I met Lauren the first week of sixie year, we had the amazing luck of being in Reading, Pre-Algebra, studies and homeroom together. She was a friendly face to look to for support during that hectic year of change from elementary school to BLS. We've been friends ever since.

Lauren's determined nature was apparent from the start of her BLS career. She was always working hard to do her best and was willing to help anyone around her. I'm sure this character will follow her throughout her life and into college. Her hard work and determination has paid off and next year she will be attending Amherst College where she hopes to major in a science. She will be a great asset to their community as she has been here at Latin school. While here for six years Lauren has contributed a great deal to the school. This year alone Lauren was editor of the school's award winning Winter edition of the Register, voted secretary of the National Honor Society, was the director of the student led tours. She also is the only female member of BLS's varsity golf team and has been playing clarinet since sixie year. This year she also expanded her musical involvement by playing in the football pep band.

Lauren has been a great friend and classmate over the six years I have been at Latin School, her academic successes only represent a small part of the great person she has become. On June 10, 2001 we will part ways with our entire class, and keep a few close friends as a link to our past. For me Lauren will be that link. We have shared so many memories and she helped make Latin school an enjoyable place for me. I wish her the best of luck in the future, even though she won't need it.



Gina Bruno

By Andrew Barr, I
Co-Editor-in-Chief

She's a prominent figure in both the Italian Club and the Hip-Hop Club. Truly, Gina is a unique member of the Boston Latin School family. Born and raised in scenic Brighton, Gina is one of the most capable and efficient members of the senior class.

Her activities include the two aforementioned organizations, the Mock Trial Team, the football band (she's the President of that, too), the Senior Concert Band, the National Honor Society, the award-winning Big Band, a job at the Harvard Business School, another job at her father's store in Brighton, and, most importantly, stringing for the Argo.

Oh, yeah. And she's become Mr. Montague's sidekick, creating and supervising a senior questionnaire about the college process. When the Argo needed a list of where everyone was going to school for this issue, not only did Gina volunteer, she even put the list together several times due to computer issues. If you need something done at Boston Latin School, Gina's a pretty good person to ask.

Plus, she's the reigning Ms. Allston-Brighton. I swear to God I'm not making that up. Seriously, I've seen the sash. She's going to Boston College next year on a full scholarship. She's taking numerous AP classes. She volunteers at a library.

This Spotlight is in trouble. It's taken so long to get through all of her achievements that there may not be much room for relevant quotes from the subject. We'll leave you with this: when we called to get said quotes, she began the conversation by explaining that she'd emailed two articles (which she'd volunteered to write), and asking if there was anything else she could do.

As an accomplished writer, only Gina could have written a better BLS story for herself. And as it, like this Spotlight, comes to a close, she'll leave a huge void. I mean, Italian Club AND Hip-Hop Club?



Paul Hourihan

By Brian Farnkoff, I
Contributing Writer

Paul has evolved into a respected, multi-talented instrumentalist. Beginning with the purchase of a bass some years ago, Paul has been consistently practicing with his own band made up of other loyal Rozzi natives (including guitarist Steve DeLosh). He has been invited to perform with various other bands over the years for, both lead and bass, and his perspective and knowledge is now appreciated for his attendance at the Wang Center's *Young at Arts* songwriting seminar. By night, in between his AP Music homework breaks, he can be found in his own basement experimenting with whatever new toy has struck his curiosity recently. Whether jamming on his drum set or teaching himself a new riff on his acoustic guitar, playing the piano or trying the harmonica, fine-tuning his bass or learning the violin, this adopted music-arena is the playground of BLS's most versatile musician.

Since attending Sacred Heart School, Paul has been a Boy Scout and has gradually progressed in the ranks to become an admired veteran to youths looking for direction. He has consistently volunteered in numerous service projects around the community, ranging from hiking trail maintenance to park cleanups in Hyde Park. In addition to these long hours of volunteer service, Paul has been a pioneering member of the Peer Board for the newly organized CYO at Sacred Heart. His capability of keeping the good humor at meetings afloat with a genuine concern for others and his ability to sincerely relate with the younger CYO members will sorely be missed, as he makes his trip for St. Michael's College this fall.

Accomplished musician, respected community volunteer, Varsity athlete, and a good friend who has dodged the chaotic Latin lifestyle; Paul is a personality whose refreshingly easy-going nature may be just what this school needs more of. So seniors, don't forget his leadership and wish Paul good luck on the slopes in Vermont, and underclassmen, try to take a page from the Book of Paul.



Maia Laing

By Karyn Rautenberg, I
Staff Writer

It's Wednesday afternoon, mid-December, and a scent of chicken noodle soup drifts past as you carelessly shuffle to lunch. You glance over your shoulder in curiosity, pushing through the crowded steps outside the office. There rests a pair of lanky legs outstretched on Mr. Fulton's desk, leisurely reclining next to the microwave, which pops open to reveal the lunch of the most relaxed, easy-going, and deserving senior of us all. You've just taken a glance into Latin School's largest phenomenon since utility periods: Paul Hourihan's world. Stumbling down the steps into the dining hall, you muster an envious grin as you acknowledge a fellow senior who has gotten the best of this place. Aside from being the humble presence that manages to balance this hectic atmosphere, and perhaps restore some semblance of sanity to our class, Paul's honorable demeanor is merely the threshold of his wide array of accomplishments in his community, and talents as a musician.

Since his first audition for Show Choir Freshman year, of which is now co-president, the natural musician in

Maia is known to some as the short girl with a gorgeous smile. To her friends, she is a true "sweetheart," they commented repeatedly. She is "very unique," she works really hard, and that certainly makes her worthy of recognition. Her teachers have considered her an important personality to the senior class, someone who's not afraid to speak her mind and lead a discussion. Her "spunky" personality has gotten her where she is today, ready to embrace life and the world.

Maia arrived here in the seventh grade and has been a constant presence in the corridors of Latin School ever since. Friends say that she's the one they lean on, the one to go to with a problem because she always "gives good advice." Her involvements at school include the AKS and the Fashion Talent Show.

In the community, Maia has been an interesting addition to dance programs. Recently she made the Alvin Ailey dance organization, something truly to boast about. She's also been teaching tap for four years. With all her accomplishments, it's no wonder that she was invited to attend Hampton College.

Arts and Entertainment

Arts Spotlight



Ryan Montoya

BY DAVID PAQUET-WHALL, I
ASSISTANT GRAPHIC ARTS EDITOR

I can still remember that exact moment when I first met Ryan Montoya; appropriately enough he had his sketchbook out at the time. This was five years ago; we were assigned to sit next to each other in Mr. Aversa's Connections class. At the time I had figured myself to be quite the artist. Little did I realize that certain people in this school possessed skills that far surpassed my own, but I digress. I walked into class and saw a sketchbook on the desk in front of Ryan, and I proceeded to look through it in amazement. Whether it was pure disbelief or an overwhelming sense of jealousy I can't remember (probably the latter), but I refused to believe that these were his drawings. My exact statement I believe, was "ppshhh, yeah right."

I soon learned, however, that the drawings were

“OVER THE YEARS RYAN HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE ONE OF THE FOREMOST ARTISTS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL.”

truly his, and that they showed only a small portion of his talent. Over the years Ryan has proven himself to be one of the foremost artists within this school. Some may remember the ever-popular "Latin Man" that graced the cover of the Register last year, or the lesser-known Kobe Bryant that appeared in the Argo itself. In addition, Ryan has been the Graphics Art Editor for the past three years now.

Ryan started like most of us do in the early days of or youth, drawing Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and copying the drawings out of popular comic books. I have witnessed him say the names of particular comic artists just by looking at one drawing; he tends to proceed with a protracted allegory of the style, blah, blah, and how the artist "conveys something." Actually, the stuff he says regarding particular artists never manages to stay in my mind. In fact, certain comic artists are among his biggest influences. His favorites are comprised of Jim Lee, who was the artist of the X-Men series from '90-'91, and Katsuhiro Otomo, the artist that drew the Akira series.

Ryan's true dedication to art, however, can be deciphered by realizing how many art classes he has taken. They have ranged from classes at the Massachusetts College of Art to the Museum of Fine Arts to the Art Institute of Boston. He has excelled so much in the artistic field that two years ago he received special permission to attend a graduate class at the School of Museum of Fine Arts; a 15 year old among college graduates, a little-man Tate, as if he's gonna kill me for that one.

But for all his talent and accomplishments Ryan has yet to receive credit from the Argo until his very last chance. In every one of his years at Boston Latin School Ryan has been promised a place in the Arts Spotlight, not to be received until the very last issue. Better late than never, I suppose.

I, personally, hold a great respect for Ryan as an artist, but more importantly as a friend. Although I wish I could truly due credit to Ryan's ability, I find that I lack the time, and maybe even the skill of words to describe his talent. To put it all into perspective for those who don't know him, look at the front of this paper, at the new Argo logo. Ryan did it, and I assure you that he could draw that picture in the same amount of time it would take most of you to go to the bathroom.

Music Night Sings of Success

BY ANETTE TRAN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

April 27th was a testament to the myriad of multi-talented musicians, right here in our own Boston Latin School community. Raising over \$10,000 for scholarships to benefit the class of 2001, teachers and students came together to produce a stellar Music Night. The excitement of performing in front of my friends and family was an incredible experience, showcasing a whole year's work, says violinist Lu Mei He, II.

The night began with a bang, dedicated to Coach Paul Costello and Mr. Frank Hannigan, two long-time members of the BLS professional staff and went on in full force, beginning with the delightful performance from the Class IV Chorus, conducted by Mrs. Wong-Ho.

Highlights of the evening included the Boston Latin Jazz Band, Gospel Choir, and Concert Choir. The audience

was blown away by the smooth moves of the ever-perky Show Choir's version of Night Fever conducted by Tim Grace. The String Ensemble, led by Ms. White, presented the unique playing of the violin in 'Somebody's Knocking' with its playful pizzicato. The solid performance of the Senior Band lulled the audience with a beautiful rendition of Irish Tune from County Derry, led by Mr. Pitts. Each group had a unique sound and style, infusing more color and variety to the show. According to Zoe Weinstein, II, the audience was impressed by the professional caliber of the performances.

The night ended with a memorable performance from Concert Choir, outfitted in original and creative costumes, performing excerpts from the opera Carmen, a feast from the ears and eyes. Whether on the stage or in the orchestra pit, every face was brimming with a great passion for music.

Drama Club Virgins

BY ALLISON JOLLY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recently the drama club has been under some scrutiny in regards to its casting process. People have argued that the same people are always casted in every show through some sort of favoritism or thespian spoils system. I'm not going to lie to you. Looking back on the playbills of some past shows, I will admit the casts look suspiciously similar, but I assure you that it is not because of any unfair practices. Well any cynic will be proven wrong once they see the cast list for Kaitlyn Jolly's (Class I) spring production of "Lovers and Other Strangers" by Joesph Bologna and Renee Taylor. Possibly the most diverse group of actors ever to grace the stage for a BLS Drama Club production, these students have a refreshingly wide range of backgrounds, interest, and acting experience. Out of the core group of fifteen cast and crew members, nine are newcomers to the club, or as we so affectionately call them, "drama club virgins." A good mix of seasoned dramatists and enthusiastic rookies, this group of truly exceptional artists is driven by a common goal: love and excitement for theater.

(The following are little blurbs introducing you all to these new faces in the drama club. . . in alphabetical order so we can't be accused of playing favorites.)

Jason Allukian is a very sexy graduating senior who if you don't recognize him by sight, you will by voice. . . he was voted Loudest in the senior class. This multi-talented athlete and musician took his last opportunity to take an active role in the club. He takes his role, as Ritchie, as seriously as he takes his time on the wrestling mat or soccer field, but also brings an excited and positive attitude to each rehearsal.

Julie Byrne is a junior who is no stranger to the stage—just the one at BLS. Upon meeting her, you can immediately tell that this chick from Southie with a million dollar smile is comfortable performing. Her stage presence is unprecedented, a talent she honed while acting with the Boston Children's Theater and at her dance classes. Her expertise in comedy shines through on stage with her role as Beatrice, and off the stage where she is constantly cracking jokes.

John (Jack) Ferris is a junior in his first role ever with the Drama Club. However, he is no stranger to the art. He is one of the founders of The Yellow Submarine Improv Group and has written a full-length production which was staged by the club last year. His role as the suave ladies man, Jerry, is a chance for him to really explore his intrinsic talent, through the words of a playwright other than himself. The Drama Club will be seeing a lot more of this brilliant boy and his mess of blonde hair; next year he will fill one of the producer slots and help run the club.

Melissa Li is a graduating senior whom you will not actually see on stage during "Lovers and Other Strangers." However she does play an important behind-the-scenes part as the Assistant Stage Manager. If you long to watch her on stage, catch her sometimes performing some of her folky jams which she writes herself. She adds a new and unique view to the script.

Chiamaka Ojimba is a junior who the Drama Club has literally begged to be in one of our productions. She auditioned for "Interview" and turned down her part. This fiery and breathtaking girl will make her acting debut as Cathy in "Lovers. . ." Her energy and smile will infect you all.

Carrie Pierce is a junior also making her acting debut in "Lovers. . ." You can't miss this girl with her adorable fashion and equally adorable curls. It is a wonder that this girl with an angelic voice and outstanding capacity for acting and interpreting text has never been in a play here before. She enjoys CUBA! and getting her name printed in prestigious publications such as this one.

Jennifer Ruff, although she is wicked short, this senior is as huge and rambunctious as they come. Whether it is her ill dance moves, funky clothes, or her shuffle walk, this girl is a pint-sized bombshell with loads of talent. I guess good things do come in small packages.

Jonathan Smalls is a junior who I am positive you know. Whether on the track or singing in the hallways he is unforgettable to say the least. He is familiar with the craft of acting, as he is another seasoned veteran of Boston Children's Theater, and thus dominates with his role as Frank in the play.

Brandon Swanson is a junior who has always secretly wanted to be involved in a play at BLS. He truly gets a chance to shine in his role as a "confirmed bachelor" although he is not. Out of everyone in the play he shows the most personal dedication and works diligently every rehearsal. He is a joy to watch and is all around, a good little doobie.

I encourage everyone to come and see the show which goes up the weekend of June 15. It will be the first and final chance to catch some graduating seniors in action, and an opportunity to see some rookie actors in their debut performances.

Congrats to the:
BLS JAZZ BAND,
DRAMA CLUB and
PRIZE
DECLAMATION
WINNERS
for a year full of
accomplishments!!!

Reveal More Evolution than Rock Revolution for R.E.M.

BY ANDREW BARR, I
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anyone remember when R.E.M.'s music was a jumbled but beautiful tangle of jangly guitars and indecipherable vocals?

The days of mumbled yet gorgeous hits like "Radio Free Europe" and "Driver 8" are gone. Past, too, are the days of intelligent rock-outs like "The One I Love" and "the song that everyone knows," a.k.a., "It's the End Of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)."

Yes, we are fully into Phase 3 of the Athens, Ga. outfit's career. This could perhaps be called the "Flaky but Pleasant" phase. We first saw glimpses of it on 1999's *Up*. One rocker in the bunch, but nevertheless a decent array of rock ballads and Michael-Stipe-in-a-kimono head trips.

Reveal, then, is *Up* without any semblance of distortion. The latest album, released this month, is described commonly as "lush and atmospheric," but what it really is is thoughtful. Stipe's lyrics are bizarre (any real fan had to suppress a wince at hearing the line "pomegranate afternoons/ of Mingus, Chet Baker, and chess" in "She Just Wants To Be"), but now that his versatile voice is front and center, we can actually make them out. Heck, he even broke with tradition and thoughtfully included a lyric sheet in the liner notes.

The album's opener, "The Lifting," is reminiscent of "Airportman," the first song off *Up*, crossed with that album's single, "Daysleeper." "Grounded, 5 a.m.," it begins, and we can pretty much see the stockbrokers waking up. Yawn. But it takes three or four listenings to pick up on what makes

Reveal work, despite its occasional lack of energy. "She Just Wants To Be" is far and away the best song on the album, with a nostalgic guitar line from Peter Buck and a catchy vocal melody. And obscure lyrical references aside, you can't accuse Michael Stipe of falling into rock star clichés. I don't think I've ever heard the word pomegranate in a rock song before.

"I've Been High," which sounds like a bad power ballad from the late 80s, is actually one of the more beautiful tracks. With the departure of drummer Bill Berry, former Beck drummer Joey Waronker is touring with the band, but the remaining three from the original group have yet to name him as a replacement. And indeed, R.E.M. is becoming increasingly comfortable with drum machines, as seen on this track. This is a song, and an album, meant to be played on a rainy night.

Don't be fooled by the single, "Imitation of Life." Although it is present, the guitar does not provide much meat for this album. The brunt of the work is done by a variety of synthesizers and organs. R.E.M., long a rather manly collection of chord changes over a wiry bass line, has gone somewhat soft.

Not that that's all bad. "Saturn Returns" is a collection of strange noises (someone's been listening to Radiohead), sparse piano, arpeggiated vocals, and then, suddenly, a rather cheesy drum line. But it works.

And that's what's important to remember about *Reveal*. It's flaky, it's self-indulgent, it's a little too smooth for this R.E.M. diehard. But it all works, somehow. Perhaps simple talent and chutzpah came together to redeem what probably wasn't a great idea on paper.



Drama Club Wrap-Up

BY JONATHON GASS, JR., I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This year has been a great year for the Drama Club and Centre Stage Productions. The production team of Jon Gass, Kait and Allie Jolly and Adam Finelli along with Ms. Sarah Teasdale has come a long way from our choppy '99-'00 season. With the new "black box" theater and the newly orange drama office, the Drama Club has finally gained a place in the BLS community.

With the fall show *Private Eyes*, directed by Rose Costello, the Drama Club set precedence for outstanding theater this year. Her cast starred some of the best actors and actresses that the student body possesses. Rose Costello utilized the new space with much success and earned a multitude of praise.

Mask, written and performed by the cast and directed by Ms. Sarah Teasdale was Boston Latin's first taste of experimental theater. Ms. Teasdale's incredible vision was executed wonderfully by a cast compiled generally of new Drama Club members. The black box was transformed into an actual black box and the cast and crew used the space well by hanging black cloth on all walls of the theater. A great amount of work went into the execution of this piece of art from scripting in late '99 to a successful final performance in early '00. Congrats to all involved.

The Boston Latin Drama Club took its play, *Interview*, directed by Jon Gass to the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild. With an incredible upset, this show was slighted by apparently corrupt political agendas on the part of the Guild and it's judging staff. This did not stop the cast and crew to impress audiences at their public performances at Northeastern University's Blackman Theater. The cast and crew was entirely dedicated to this mature piece of themes confronting urban isolated America.

The Peer Players, a new Shakespearean theater group at BLS, was developed this year by Ms. Teasdale with the help of a generous grant (just in case you wanted to know, the administration provides no funding for any Drama Club activities). This program will take skits from Shakespearean works into the classroom and will therefore enrich Latin's

English curriculum by showing Shakespeare in its original form. Several shows during and after school have displayed great talent on the part of the company members. Next year this program will continue and new company members will be added to the original group. Look for information on auditions next year if you are interested. All grades are welcomed.

Lovers and Other Strangers, directed by Kaitlyn Jolly, has proved those critical of the Drama Club's auditioning practices wrong. Her cast, almost completely compiled of new members is incredibly comical and talented. This show will soon take the stage of BLS with its powerful image of romance and societal relations. Her cast has been highlighted in the article "Drama Club Virgins" on page 24.

An upcoming Night of Scenes showing off the work of directors Marcus Stacy, Nafkote Tamirat and Kara Ryan is sure to add variety to the usual three play year. At this Night of Scenes there will be shows from "Wit", "Monty Python", and an original play called "The Game". These first-time directors are taking the initiative to gain experience to help themselves prepare for possibly directing next year. Please come support these amateur directors and their dedicated casts.

The Yellow Submarines, Boston Latin's own improv troupe has had an amazingly successful year. The Magical Mystery Show and SIT Back were both highly energetic and interactive shows that engaged large audiences. The improv group has their own article on page 26 that explains this year's endeavors. Next year the Subs will continue to spark laughter and good times.

To end the year on a positive note, the producers have officially elected four new students to replace the leaving seniors. Tommy O'Malley, Faith Imafidon, Marcus Stacy and Jack Ferris will preside over the production team next year and will join the already established member, Adam Finelli. Jon Gass, Kaitlyn and Allison Jolly would like to wish you all the best of luck in the future. We would like to express our unbelievable gratitude to Ms. Teasdale, better known as the "Big Teas", for all her incredible dedication and never ending smile. Thank you so much. We will miss everyone, but we'll be returning for your shows so make us proud! Break some legs...

Arts Spotlight



Melissa Li

BY DOUGLAS LE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I first met Melissa at the Washington Irving Middle School she had dreams of becoming a famous actress for CCTV in Hong Kong (the major Chinese production studio). She played the violin, wrote enumerable short stories, and was always doodling little comics about herself, her family, and friends. These were her first experiences in the arts. Over the years, she has refined her talents, although she still entertains me daily in class with her "Bad-Ass" comics. Melissa has become a burgeoning writer, filmmaker, and musician. The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston is where Melissa first began her experiments in film in 1998. She has been writing short stories and scripts since she was a child, but it was here where she could realize her true vision: directing. Melissa's first movie was *Past the Pride* in 1999, which she wrote, directed, and produced. To make this video, she called upon the dramatic skill and technical expertise of her own good friends. The motto of her planned and highly anticipated film production company, Grrrilla Films, mirrors her artistic style and drive: "No Budget. No Problem." She next directed *Jump 2K* with the ICA, which was quite well received by audiences. She then wrote and directed the movie *Dare*, which was never completed.

Currently, with the support of Filmshack Productions, Melissa wrote and is now directing her first 16mm, *Caught Up*. This girl is a sick genius. This summer she plans to shoot another masterpiece of her own creation *Screw the Lipstick*. Melissa is also in the process of filming a documentary about gay and lesbian youth.

Melissa began her music career playing the piano while still very young. Like any other good Asian child she soon moved onto the violin and her musical skill only further blossomed. Melissa has been writing her own music since elementary school. She was a notable member of the BLS String Ensemble for five years, and most recently played as the orchestra's concert mistress. Armed with her "perfect pitch" and years of musical study, she can sit back and relax in the Music AP class as others struggle to grasp theory. Although she has quit the violin, her music continues. Two years ago while at music camp, she picked up an acoustic guitar for the first time, learned a few chords, and has not been able to put it down ever since.

Melissa is self-taught in the guitar and can be seen carrying it around school, playing impromptu concerts in her Government and French classes. She plays her own music, occasionally covering John Denver's "Leaving on a Jet Plane" because it is the only song she can cover. Folk artists like Deb Talan, Jonatha Brook, and Edie Carey (names obscure to the general public) are some of her favorites. She can often be caught mesmerized and quietly panting while listening to the soulful music of Ani DiFranco, who is above all her greatest influence. Melissa wowed audiences at this year's Fashion Talent Show when she performed "Dance America." She will be returning to the Asian Night stage again this year with another original folk ballad. Melissa has performed at a number of free events all over the city over the past year, but her most notable performance was on Clarendon Street in the South End at this year's Gay/Straight Youth Pride March in May. Most recently, Melissa has finished recording her independently produced debut album *MOOP!* which features eleven of Melissa's own tracks, including "Dance America." You'll be able to buy it soon for a much-appreciated \$10.

Melissa is a quirky and compassionate artist in the less conventional sense. She vents her joy, anger, and pain through the music she writes. Though her films are a bit "rough", they are unbelievably entertaining and impressive given the circumstances of their creation. Melissa will be attending Boston University in the fall, where she plans to study film. In the future she hopes to become a filmmaker, as well as to pursue her childhood dream of acting. Melissa plans to continue writing and performing music; carving a place for herself in the genre of Chinese-American folksingers. Melissa's talents will be missed at BLS, but in the future she will not go unrecognized. Check out her Web site at <http://www.melissali.com>.

Make A Note: Go See Riveting *Memento*

BY ADAM FINELLI, II
CONTRIBUTING MOVIE ENTHUSIAST

Memento, starring Guy Pierce, Carrie Moss, and Joe Palatino, is a sharp, breathless thriller from director Christopher Nolan. *Memento* boldly utilizes elements of narrative, audience expectations, character and setting to tell a haunting and viciously captivating story. Based on the short story by the director's brother, Jonah Nolan, *Memento* tells the tale of a man desperately seeking revenge for his wife's murder while dealing with a rare version of short-term memory loss. In an attempt to save his wife from the assailants, he receives a blow to the head that knocks him out and deprives him of the ability to make new memories after that moment. His long-term memory, however, is still intact; he knows who he is and maintains basic instinctual knowledge. Leonard Shelby copes with his disability by writing notes, taking Polaroids and tattooing vital information on his body. Helping him along the way is cop Teddy, played by Joe Pantaliano (*The Matrix*), and a seemingly sympathetic character Natalie, played by Carrie Anne Moss (*The Matrix*). Dealing with his disability and learning to trust his surroundings and new friends, Leonard, played by Guy Pierce (*L.A. Confidential*, *Ravenous*), hunts down a killer through the maze of his mind.

The intricate plot is made even more complicated by an incredible narrative style. The film manipulates temporal order so that the audience is given a handicap similar to Leonard's. The viewer must at first struggle to keep up with the events occurring right in front of them, never mind the crucial background story. Similarly, Leonard must struggle to keep what he is doing at the moment clear in his head, while at the same time striving to find his wife's killer, and to figure out what Ted and Natalie are possibly doing to him. Both the audience and Leonard strive to seek understanding beyond what is presently happening while at the same time sorting out what is occurring right in front of them. This use of narrative accentuates the

mental conflict facing Leonard and increases the tension to a feverish pitch; instead of watching someone with the problem, we have the problem ourselves. (Note: for the first viewing, I recommend not drawing any conclusions or final ideas about the truth any point during the film. Watch, and start thinking after the movie).

The background and barren setting of Southern California is where the nauseating mobius strip of Leonard's story unravels. Never ending roads with the American acne of gas stations, motels, and bars set the scene for a collection of lost and empty characters. Leonard's constantly reconstructing and confused mind fits in among the ruins of industrial parks and abandoned construction sites where he searches for clues. The desert-like, generic Southern California town nurtures hollow and amoral characters, all eager to take advantage of Leonard's mental disability. Leonard could become lost at any moment amongst miles and miles of the same thing, if not in his own mind.

The two other major characters, Teddy and Natalie, play a key role in moving the events of the story along, and are themselves as mysterious as all the subplots they represent. *Matrix* alums Joe Palatino and Carrie Anne Moss give powerful performances as the somehow connected cop and bartender. In *Memento*, however, they have the good writing to explore complicated roles that they portray with conviction and keen understanding. Natalie and Teddy dance playfully on a twisted line between good and evil, and add an infinite amount of layers to the film. Guy Pierce, whose portrayal of a man feeding himself a purpose after his life is basically taken away is haunting, and most noticeably: human. He portrays a character constantly readjusting himself to his surroundings and giving way to an infantile vulnerability, while desperately seeking a killer and his own identity. *Memento* is playing at Kendall Theater in Cambridge, Fenway Theater, and select suburban theaters. Make a note to yourself.

Cult Films for Dummies

BY KAITLYN JOLLY, I
CO-ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Here's a scenario for all you "so-called" movie buffs: you're in the video store scanning the shelves for something new to watch. And if you are anything like me, who the clerks at West Coast know by name, know how much you owe in late fees, and know that you have a habit of not rewinding, finding a movie you actually haven't seen is pretty damn difficult. Resisting the temptation of spending another evening curled up on the couch with *Earth Girls Are Easy* or *Rocky IV*, you drift subconsciously over to the Cult/Art House section of the video store, not knowing a sea of the unknown lies before you, full of obscure French titles, sex, and scenes and images that will cause you to have strange associations with the song "Singing in the Rain" for the rest of your natural life.

You may be wondering, "what is Art House? What is Cult?" Well, here it is in a

Ms. Teasdale...

Thank you for an amazing year. You have taught us more than you will ever know. We will miss your smile.

—BLS Drama Club Producers: Kait, Jon, Allie & Adam

BLS Bands Light It Up

BY PAUL HOURIHAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Leonard Bernstein graduated from Public Latin School in 1936, he left a call for musical excellence that has gone unanswered-until now. The Latin School today actually has a music scene outside of the usual Jazz Band, Concert Choir, etc. These we like to call "BLS Bands."

The Nobodies

Paul Hourihan, I: bass, vocals; Steve DeLosh, I: guitars, backing vocals; Matt O'Keefe, I (at ACC): guitars; Jeremy Jackson, I: keyboards, harmonica, percussion; Kyle MacManus, II (at BLA): drums.

Dubbed The Nobodies by this writer, who happens to have some say in the dubbing process, the band does not actually have a name. Nor have they had a name for an entire year. The three original members, Paul Hourihan, Steve DeLosh and Kyle MacManus, started out under the name 2001 Wisemen. With the addition of Matt O'Keefe they became Strangelove, then The Sexy Goats, then The Live Wires, then Boo-Yeah, then Furious George, which was scrapped because another band (for some reason) had that name. Somewhere between The Live Wires and Boo-yeah, they picked up Jeremy Jackson, whose harmonica adds a very bluesy aspect to the swift guitar work of lead guitarist Steve DeLosh, the solid foundation guitar that Matt O'Keefe lays down, and the driving rhythm section of drummer Kyle MacManus and bassist Paul Hourihan, who also sings. This Roslindale band has a very unique style. They throw together an odd mix of classic rock, blues, modern punk and whatever else they get their hands on. They developed a small fan base due to their jumping rendition of the Cars' "Just What I Needed," but they would like to be known for their originals, which have been in production for over three and a half years. From their humble beginnings playing to an audience of seven in Matt Wentworth's backyard, they have moved on to play bigger and better backyards and stadiums. They would like you to know that they are open for suggestions for a name. So should you think of a good one, share!

Swiftkicker

Chris Coletta, I: Guitars, vocals; Diego McCafferty, I: Bass, vocals; Casey Boyd, I (at Newman Prep): Guitars; Andrew Barr, I: Drums.

Putting a finger on the style of the band Swiftkicker is not a simple task. Their drummer, Andrew Barr, describes the band as "People who shouldn't be allowed to have loud instruments but do anyway, making an

awful lot of noise." Started about a year ago in Andrew Barr's basement, they have played at some local events, their most recent a show in Saugus in November. They claim to have invented their own genre, "No-goodnik," a term coined by bass singer Diego McCafferty. "No-goodnik" would be described as a blend of punk, pop, humor, and teenage lack of maturity. They have been together for about a year now, and have come a long way from their start in the basement of Andrew Barr. Although they will argue that they don't actually know how to play music, they really put on a good show. They, like Swiftkicker, pride themselves in their ability to entertain a crowd as opposed to performing a musically tight assortment of songs. Guitar player Casey Boyd says, "I mean, we do love music and we do love to play it, but when it comes down to it, we're much better at having fun than we are at being musicians." As Chris Coletta puts it, "As long as you don't get arrested and everybody goes home happy, it's a good show." So is Barr as good a drummer as he is an Argo editor? There is only one way to find out, my friends.

Night of Annubis

Paul Walsh, III: Guitars, vocals; Steve Foley, III: Bass, vocals; Cheryl Bowes, III: drums.

Night of Annubis could fall under any category of metal, whether it be death metal, speed metal, or good old fashioned homespun 80s hair metal. Unlike most bands, Night of Annubis did not start off covering songs of other bands. In fact, Last Caress by the Misfits is the only cover they do. The have been writing their own songs from day one, which is something not many bands can claim. They have been together for about seven months and, being entirely sophomores, could be considered a Latin School up and coming. They are still in the writing and improving process, but they hope to hit the studio by the end of the summer. In the meantime, they are looking for a lead guitarist and a better name. Auditions and suggestions are welcome.

The BLS House Band

Chris Coletta, I: Guitars, vocals, bass Paul Hourihan, I: Bass, guitar, vocals; Steve DeLosh, I: Guitars, Andrew Barr, I: Drums; Jeremy Jackson, I: Harmonica, Keyboards.

There are many who doubt that this band actually exists, as they have never actually had a show anywhere. They formed originally with the intent of playing at the various Latin School events, but were turned down, as there is no real need for a funk band around here. But they have been practicing, and should be appearing at the senior show.

Yellow Submarines Info

BY JACK FERRIS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Remember back in this year's first Argo when Jon Gass said this year was going to be full of productions? Well, it turned out to be a drastic understatement; this year has been way past full. *Mask*, *Private Eyes*, *Interview*, the performances of the Peer Players, and the upcoming *Lovers and Other Strangers*, and Night of Short Scenes have given BLS theater buffs more chances than ever at the stage. However, two shows have made their mark by allowing everyone who wanted stage time a opportunity to act: *The Magical Mystery Show*, and *SIT Back*, both performed by the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe.

The Improv Troupe, which was formed at the beginning of last year, is a branch of the Drama Club that focuses mainly on improvisational acting. The club offers stage time to all members who participate in a majority of its meetings. The club's flair for zany humor and low cost of a dollar per show

has filled the Black Box for all five of its performances this year. The purpose of the club, in the opinion of its co-captains, is to provide an entry to the Drama Club, give stage time to those people who really want it but may not be able to get it anywhere else, and to showcase the clever wit many BLS students have at improv. It wouldn't be fair for us to review the shows, as we are participants in both, but I can tell you that both shows were met with warm reviews from audience members of all sorts.

While this year hasn't been easy (with over 20 members, keeping both our casts professional and organized has been a tough job), the troupe has persevered and has made directors Mike Guerra, John Ferris, Josh Michel, and Jonathan "Spiffy" Krieger extremely proud. Although the Yellow Subs are through with performances for this year, the group will certainly be seeking devoted new members next year, especially younger ones. All it takes to join is to attend the meetings.

For more information on the Subs, visit our Web site: www.improv.cjb.net.

Suskind Young at Arts Student Programs

BY KATARINA YEE, II
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

It's for the writers, the actors, the singers and songwriters bottom line: it's for the lovers of any or all of the arts. Founded in 1989, Suskind Young At Arts at the Wang Center offers a variety of student programs for those who believe in the SYAA creed; that "the arts are an essential part of daily life." Funding for the SYAA programs comes from the Walter Suskind Memorial Education Fund, an endowment that was created by two Holocaust survivors, Dr. Maurice Vanderpol and his wife Netty. Walter Suskind, a Jewish man with a love for the arts, was chosen by the Nazis during World War II to run a death camp deportation center in the Netherlands. Instead, Suskind used his position to plan the escapes of young captives from the center. Though he also had opportunities to flee, he and his family were sent to Auschwitz in 1944 and were never heard from again. The fund was created to honor the bravery of Suskind, and it allows for all SYAA programs to be free of charge.

During the summer, two SYAA programs are offered. Writers in Residence, an intensive two-week writing program taking place from August 6 through August 16, is available for high-school students. Established in 1997, this program allows students to

improve their creative writing skills in prose and poetry under the guidance of local writing instructors and published writers. "We had a great mix of learning and fun," states Nicole Tabolt (II), a Writers in Residence participant. "Our mentors would teach workshops on fiction, poetry, and memoir writing, but we would also have time to joke around and make friends." Applying to Writers in Residence requires a submission of a creative writing piece, a list of creative writing opportunities available at BLS, and a description of writing experiences in and outside of school by July 13.

ACTION (ACTing In Our Neighborhoods) is designed for students in grades 7 through 9. Running from July 9 through July 27, participants of ACTION learn and refine basic acting skills and meet with a director to put together a performance piece. After two weeks of rehearsal, the troupe takes their show on tour and performs for local community organizations. Applications are due by June 15 and must include a 150-word essay describing why they want to participate in ACTION.

During the 2001-2002 school year, SYAA is expected to offer three programs. Likely to run from October 2001 through April 2002, the Paul A. Kaplan Critics' Circle is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to experience theater at venues such

as the Wang Theatre, the Wilbur Theatre, and the Charles Playhouse. Students then write critical reviews of the shows and work with local newspaper editors to prepare their articles for publication.

For those who prefer writing music and lyrics, instead of critiques, there is Songwriting. This program is exactly what the name implies; high school students learn how to join words with music, and eventually go into the recording studio to make a compilation CD of all of their hard work. At the end of this eight-month program, participants perform their pieces in front of an audience.

For high school students who enjoy acting, singing, and dancing, BroadWays is the outlet for them. At BroadWays, formerly known as Drama Club, participants work with an artistic staff and other students to polish their musical theater skills. Throughout this four-month program, students practice scene reading, have mock auditions, sing solos and ensemble pieces, dance, and run through improvisational exercises, in addition to rehearsing for their ultimate performance. "It is the sweetest program I've ever done," says Sian-Pierre Regis (II), a BroadWays alumnus. "You meet all of these new people who are so awesome and then you get to put on a show at the end of four hard months, but it's so rewarding." Application deadlines and

requirements for school-year programs have not yet been determined, however, interested students should expect to write essays explaining why they want to participate in this particular program.

The person with the enormous responsibility of overseeing all of the student programs at SYAA is Allyson Burley, the Student Programs Associate. After studying journalism at Ithaca College, Allyson became involved with organizations like Americorps and the National Civilian Community Corps. Her post-college work with these groups helped her decide that she wanted to remain in the non-profit field. She has been a part of SYAA since July 2000. Allyson advises that students who are interested in partaking in the SYAA student programs should contact her directly. "Don't have your parents or your teacher call; you call me. A big part of being accepted into SYAA programs is showing me that you are serious about being a part of the program, and that you have the initiative and commitment that we are looking for," she states. "It's about your enthusiasm, your willingness to work, [and] your commitment to what you are doing. Show me you want to be here, and the rest will just fall into place."

To request a brochure and application from SYAA, call Allyson Burley at (617) 482-9393, ext. 259. For more information, visit <http://www.wangcenter.org>.

Concert Review: *Ben Harper*

BY BRIAN DANZ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"You can really hear into (the music) quite well as far as what was going on either in my life, in my head or in my heart...It really doesn't matter, when it comes down to it, if it was something I lived through or something that I saw someone live through or something I read about. That doesn't matter, it was just an emotion at the time that was musically inspirational to me."

Far into the countryside of New Hampshire, two distinct voices and a plethora of meanings could be heard echoing from its epicenter in the Whittimore Center at UNH. On April 25 two magnificent singers rocked and lulled an entire arena filled with students who traveled all the way from Maine and Boston to see these voices and find these meanings. Howie Day and Ben Harper took the stage that night and completely blew the crowd away with their mixture of genres that spanned over all of rock-and-roll and its roots in blues and country.

Opening that night, as a solo act, was a New England local named Howie Day, a young 17-year-old from Maine. When he first crossed the stage many cheered and others stood in silence while sizing the musician from head to toe, and it was not to his avail that his guitar amp broke before he began to play (it caused a five minute delay). Yes, many dismissed the young man as a joke and took to pointing and laughing until he came back and began to play. I stood speechless and amazed as Howie played his all for the crowd to make up for the lost time. Soon ear-to-ear smiles and cheers came from his skeptical onlookers and everyone found fresh new ballads and beats to get into. His songs Disco,

Ghost, and, most of all, Buzzing all come from his debut album, *Australia*, which just one the Best Debut Album in the Boston Music Awards.

With the surprising success of Howie the crowd was expecting something a little better than normal from Harper. Anticipation was in everyone's eyes as Ben came out, waved hello to his deafening cheers, and sat down in his trademark seated performance. I have seen Ben Harper perform three times now, and let me tell you that in each performance you feel a thousand little emotions trickling over your body like a cold shower on a warm day. Every song is different from the next in its meaning and sound, and one cannot help but feel like emotions are being displayed like the colors of the spectrum in front of him. Ben opened with "Alone" and quickly began to move from blues-inspired songs to more edgy tunes, which he played on his on his lap slide guitar. From there he moved to his Weissenborn acoustic guitar for crowd favorites like "Burn One Down" and "By My Side." Harper's performance was every bit as good as Howie Day's when he closed with "Steal My Kisses." However, two encores later, the audience was convinced that he was the main attraction. Harper managed to cover four songs in the night: Pearl Jam's "Indifference," Luther Vandros' "Sexual Healing," "The Woman in You," which he dedicated to Curtis Mayfield and John Lennon, and his closing number, "Whole Lotta Love." This mix of personal hits and remakes of these classics made this probably the best small venue concert I have ever seen. It will make me return for a fourth.

Go and buy Live from Mars, Ben Harper's new live CD and I promise you'll understand every metaphor I used.

A Capella

BY GLEN RYAN, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether you're a performer or simply a member of the audience, *a capella* music is a breathtaking experience. There's something refreshingly simple and naturally energetic about eh unaccompanied vocal harmonies that creates an irresistible attraction. Listening, you can't help being entranced by the pure, smooth and up front displays of vocal acrobatics. As you stare in the wonderment, you'll soon find yourself unconsciously humming, tapping your foot, or snapping your fingers with the beat. As a performer, you too are caught up in the powerful sound you've created, which can instantly illuminate a lifeless room, and bring visible joy to the faces of enraptured listeners. Such is the experience of *a capella* music, which can't truly be captured in words but needs to be heard live and in person, and which flourishes on today's college campuses. Why the does a school that makes a business out of preparing students for institutes of higher learning not have, as of yet, it very own group?

Well, this obvious gap in the extra-curriculum of the Latin School may soon be remedied. BLS alumnus Sean Ryan '98, who has spent the last few years at Harvard singing in various *a capella* groups, hopes to return for the 2001-2002 academic school year to extend the college phenomenon to the high school level. He hopes to offer those who are interested in *a capella* music an opportunity to experience it first hand. I recently sat down with Sean to talk a little about his experiences, hope s, aspirations, and plans for a Latin School *a capella* group.

Glen: What's your singing experience?

Sean: At Latin School I sand in the gospel choir for two years and the show choir for one. At Harvard, I've sung in the Glee Club, a 60-voice male choir, for two years; it's *a capella* subset, Glee Club Life, for one; and this past year I've sung with the Krokodiles, a 12-member semi-professional male *a capella* group that rehearses every day, performs 3-4 times a week, and takes an 11-week world tour every summer.

G: What positive experiences have you had singing in these groups?

S: Singing in all-male groups feels a

lot like playing on a sports team. There's a real sense of camaraderie that develops over the course of the semester. I feel a real bond with the other guys. But it's the music that is the main draw, the thing we all have in common. It's been a thrill to perform in front of packed houses in Sanders Theater, and to travel the globe singing with my closest friends.

G: Why do you think Latin School needs another singing group?

S: It seems to me that most of the kids at Latin see singing as a kind of second-class extracurricular, ever within the category of the arts. They don't really feel the same pride in the chorus as they do in, say, their varsity sports team or debate team or what have you. This is starting to change lately – with the success of Mr. Pitts' Big Band I think kids are startng to get excited about jazz in the school. I'd like to create a similar excitement about singing.

G: What would be different about your group?

S: I hope to have somewhere between 12 and 16 guys. We'll rehearse once a week for two hours, but in order to learn music faster I was hoping to have "sectionals" in the mornings before school starts. Our repertoire will also be different – eventually I'd love to see some of the classical works for male choir performed at BLS but at first we're going to focus on more popular stuff. And of course, no instrumental accompaniment, just a little vocal percussion occasionally.

G: What types of music specifically?

S: Well, I was thinking we could do some oldies – 50's doo-wop stuff – which are really fun, and some Motown and R&B, a little jazz, and a few traditional ballads. I'm working on arrangements right now so that we'll be able to start learning stuff right at the beginning of next year. Basically, cool songs that guy groups have done.

G: What kind of guys are you looking for?

S: Anyone! It doesn't matter what sort of musical experience you have. I'd probably want to have auditions, but really just to see what people ranges are and how many guys are interested. I'll be putting up posters soon with more information, and with a list of some of the songs I'm working on. I'm still trying t think of a catchy name, so I'm taking suggestions.

Book Review: *Truth Be Told*

Hey Juniors and Seniors! Interested in reading a compelling novel about college life by someone who walked the halls of Boston Latin School and continues to do so today as a teacher? Ms. Rachel Skerritt, one of our very own masters, has just published her first book entitled *Truth Be Told*. You can read an excerpt and purchase Truth Be Told online at <http://www.xlibris.com/truthbetold.html>. You'll love this book!

Sports

Wolfpack Baseball Looking for Another Tourney Bid

By JONATHAN KRIEGER, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They're back. It's been a year since the boys baseball team last triumphed over the rest of the DCL, but it hasn't lost its touch. The Wolfpack is again doing what it did so much last year: winning. Off to a league-leading 10-3 start thanks to an explosive offense and great pitching by Burgess Nichols and Mike McCarthy, these guys are turning pre-season predictions into regular season realities.

Despite all the team's talent going into the season, one doubt remained. Pitching. Junior sensation Nichols was the obvious choice to lead the rotation, but after him came a string of question marks. Having lost its top two pitchers to graduation, the squad was forced to rely on some young, unproven players. But Mike McCarthy (another junior) has emerged as an excellent number two starter, and the rest of the rotation has stepped up and has done its part. And Nichols has certainly fulfilled his side of the bargain. His pitching has been so dominant that senior Matt Murphy says each game Nichols' starts are "like an automatic win." And the youth on the staff should ensure that this won't be the only year of exceptional pitching.

The fielding has been the only cause for concern. Coach Coleman is still experimenting with different permutations on defense, but things have improved as players get used to the different positions. The progress should continue. With many members of last year's excellent defense returning, the players and the talent are there.

But while the defense has been shaky at times, the offense has done more than picked up the slack. In co-captain Mike Manning's opinion, BLS has "as good an offensive lineup as anyone in the state." And he could be right. The offense has dominated the opposition, compiling a high run total in almost every game, as each player has made key contributions. That and a strong work ethic should keep this team at the top of the league despite their defensive difficulties.

Lincoln-Sudbury is currently at the top of the DCL, with the Wolfpack close at its heels. Being a strong team, it has handed Latin its only two losses within the DCL this season. The third-best team appears to be Concord-Carlisle, with Latin tied for first in the league earlier in the season. When the two met for an important match, Latin pulled off a 5-4 win to give the team sole possession of first place. But perhaps the most impressive win of the season was a 6-4 victory over Brockton, which was ranked number three in the state as of Monday.



Until the end of the season, the rest of the teams in the DCL will have trouble sleeping at night knowing that the Wolfpack is in the mix. They can try counting sheep, they can try drinking warm milk, but for now, one thought will continue to keep them awake as they try to doze off: they're back.

Girls Tennis Sweeps League

By JEREMY JACKSON, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Latin School girls tennis team is a powerhouse. The Boston Latin School girls tennis team is a young powerhouse. There are no seniors on the team. The young team is able to find leadership in their camaraderie. They have all played together for years, well before they entered BLS. This helps the team to come together and strengthen each other. They have been able to unite behind one goal: the state championship. The varsity team actually consists of three juniors and four sophomores, which means that they have another year to go for the state championship after this one.

After last season's disappointing loss to Lexington in the semifinals of the state tournament, the team vowed to come back with force. So most of the team has spent the off-season hitting the weights and playing in tournaments throughout New England. In the year's past, the roles on the team were pretty clearly defined before the season started. Because of the great progress that they have made during the off-season, there has been close competition in determining the positions of each player.

After extensive matches between junior Janna Bartoloni and sophomore Kasia Preneta, Preneta came out



on top and asserted her position as the top singles player in the school, a position she has held throughout the season. Bartoloni has served the season at third singles. Junior Erin Fleming has moved to the second singles position. Sophomores Jennifer Seide and Sara Redd have remained in their first doubles position, as have junior Gabriela Perez-Hobrecker and sophomore Rohini Khouri-Babulal. As for their success so far at these positions; no one has lost a match. No one has lost a match. Even playing out-of-league matches

(Continued on Page 30)

Softball Makes Tourney!

By ALEXANDRA ZALTMAN, II
& KARYN M. RAUTENBERG, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & EDITOR

We are almost done with the spring season, and hopes are high for Boston Latin's Lady Wolfpack softball team. Even though they have practiced assiduously, this group of girls got off to a rough start. Despite this, they've turned a lot heads in the last half of their season. After winning eight of the last nine games, the girls have really made a name for themselves. On Monday, May 21, the team crushed Latin Academy to secure a spot in the state tourney. Last year, the team won its first tourney game ever against Lexington in the ninth. They went on to battle Reading, but lost it in the bottom of the tenth. With a current record of 11-8, the Latin Softball Team

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IN STRIKEOUTS THIS SEASON...*

hopes to make more school history, maybe by winning without extra innings!

This "rebuilding" year has turned into a great prospect. There are many key players on such a successful team. "Everyone has an important role in the game," comments coach Morris, "the line up changes day to day." Senior Captain Karyn Rautenberg has led the team as a dependable hitter and fielder at short stop, with three preceding season averages over .400. Junior pitcher Jackie Coffey hit the monumental 500 mark in strikeouts this season at the Westford game and has been highly influential on the base path. Sophomores Courtney Carthas and Stephanie Maneikas have switched off at the lead off position, both showing great speed and ability to hit the ball well. Carthas' reactions have really improved at third, and Steph's speed has been key in center field. Juniors Jen Olsen and Laura Hauck, 2nd and 1st basemen, have laid down the bunts whenever we need them and made some great plays on the right side.

Kerry Brennan, one of the team's many hockey stars, has developed into a dependable player offensively and defensively at 2nd and 3rd. Helen McCarthy is also in her first season and has really come through with some big hits this season. Liz Erlandson, who made an all-star catch in the outfield against Scituate, continues to amaze us with her ability

to take the ball to the opposite field. Catcher Lauren Lazar, aside from consistently getting on base, has really improved on her catching skills; making some great catches on foul balls, throwing out runners, and generally just putting a lot of effort into the play. Sixie Jacqui Vallani, while still getting comfortable with her position, is always surprising us with her hustle and diving in left field. Juniors Leigh Gilmore and Megan O'Connor have been great new assets to the team. Both have great arms and are sure to make a significant contribution to next year's squad. Nadine Deery has worked hard this season as a freshman. With her great jump off the bases, we can count on her speed and enthusiasm to make a difference. Likewise, Kara Higgins has appeared as an outfielder and a designated hitter.

Both captains, Karyn Rautenberg and Jackie Coffey, are three season athletes. Karyn, voted Most Athletic in the senior class, plays soccer, wrestles, and plays softball and



Jackie, captain of two sports as a junior plays soccer, basketball, and softball. "Playing three sports has helped teach me how to be a leader," commented Jackie. When asked about the team, Coffey showed her enthusiasm and trust in the tight knit group of girls. "The season started off rough but we are really coming together as a team. We are unified. This is a group of extremely talented and quick thinking individuals." This Lady Wolfpack's rival is Concord-Carlisle who they sucame to this season after a hard fight. "It wasn't an easy win for them, that's for sure," recalled Coffey. The team looks forward to the Concord game next year when they anticipate victory. At press time, the Wolfpack is fourth in the League. "And having knocked off the third place team, Westford, I think we're feeling pretty good about this season. Without that win and the one at Bedford, I don't know where we'd be. I think those were the games we had to win, and we did that," says Rautenberg. "I've seen every tourney season for Latin softball, and we have just as good a shot as ever," Karyn adds. "We are a great team that deserves to be shown off", commented a player who wished to remain nameless. There is no doubt in any fan's mind of that claim.

Our Favorite Sports Memories

These were the various responses to the following question asked by Joe Coffey:

In the space provided, please describe your favorite sports moment at BLS in one to two sentences. Be sure to write your name on this too. Thank You.

John Fabiano: JV Football 1999
Brian Farnkoff: Placing 3rd at Canton
John Fabiano: Being cut from JV Baseball 3 times and JV Basketball twice
Dennis Castro: The first day we got to hit at double sessions, when I ran over T.J. and hurt his shoulder.
Dan Moran: The Pep Rally: Wolfie beating up the English Bulldog.
David Sullivan: Scoring 17 points while getting a win against Lincoln Sudbury, despite throwing up 10 minutes before tip off. And the freshman year when Kavanaugh shot the ball in the wrong basket in a game at Bedford.

Lee Guo: Couch Costello's final win with the Wolfpack.

Ugo: Joey dressing in a kilt, playing with the three amigos (Kelvin, Biggie and Dennis), watching Bayo's 50 yd game winning touchdown at Westford.

Dan O'Reilly: Sophomore year at Track practice when Joey dressed up like the Chocolate Bandit, and we ran through downtown Boston.

Laura Tobias: My favorite moment at BLS was winning the step squad competition on April 28th at Madison Park Community Center.

Meg Coyne: Definitely when the crew team's heat in the NY Empire State Regatta got canceled so we raced in the boys heat... and won!

Dan O'Brien: My favorite sports moment at BLS was when that girl got hit in the nose with a hockey puck. It was so funny, but only because she suffered no serious harm.

Tricia Courtney: Taking group trip to Ben & Jerry's before crew practice & squishing more than the maximum amount of people in one car. The early morning practices on the water before the fog lifted with the best teammates ever.

Anonymous: My favorite sports moment was in outdoor season of last year, when the Boston Latin Track team took the title at the Dual County Track Championship.

Michael Doherty: My favorite sports moment was when I saw John Tobin play hockey. It was splendid.

Kevin Foley: Getting cut from JV baseball with Fabs, twice.

Dennis Itri: Getting kicked off the wrestling team.
Amy Cochrane: When the school wouldn't give enough money to pay a crew coach & the team subsequently fell apart because they couldn't fine one. Best sports moment by far.

Andrew Collins: My favorite sports moment at BLS is when we (the BLS hockey team) beat Whitman-Hanson in the South Sectional final this season 2000-2001

Brian Carthay: My favorite sports moment at BLS is when the Boy's Hockey Team beat Franklin in overtime during the state tournament. The Wolfpack was down a man because of a penalty and scored a shorthanded goal with only a few minutes left.

Sean Colby: When Joey Coffey appeared in the Boston Herald dressed in a kilt on Thanksgiving Day, 2000.

Adam Jenness: There was a cross country meet lat fall at Acton-Boxboro. The race had just begun and Joe Coffey, Jonathon Yee, and I just took the first corner. As we began to pick up speed Jonathon hit a wooden pole which was securely set in the ground and he came to a seemingly painful stop. Because as we sped, it looked as if he had flew backwards. Joe and I probably did not run our best race due to the cramps we had after laughing for the first mile.

Brendan Connell: Golf team beats Newton South 55-53 for the first in three years!

Mr. Izzo: The final Hockey game at the Fleet Center. The only let down, we lost!!

Katie Freeley: Joey Coffey in a kilt at the Thanksgiving game.

Jonathon Speranza: When Keith MacDonald caught

my TD pass in the English game with 6 seconds left in the half and jumped over the goal line into the end zone.

Katie McGrath: When the boys hockey team won the Div. II South Finals at BU.

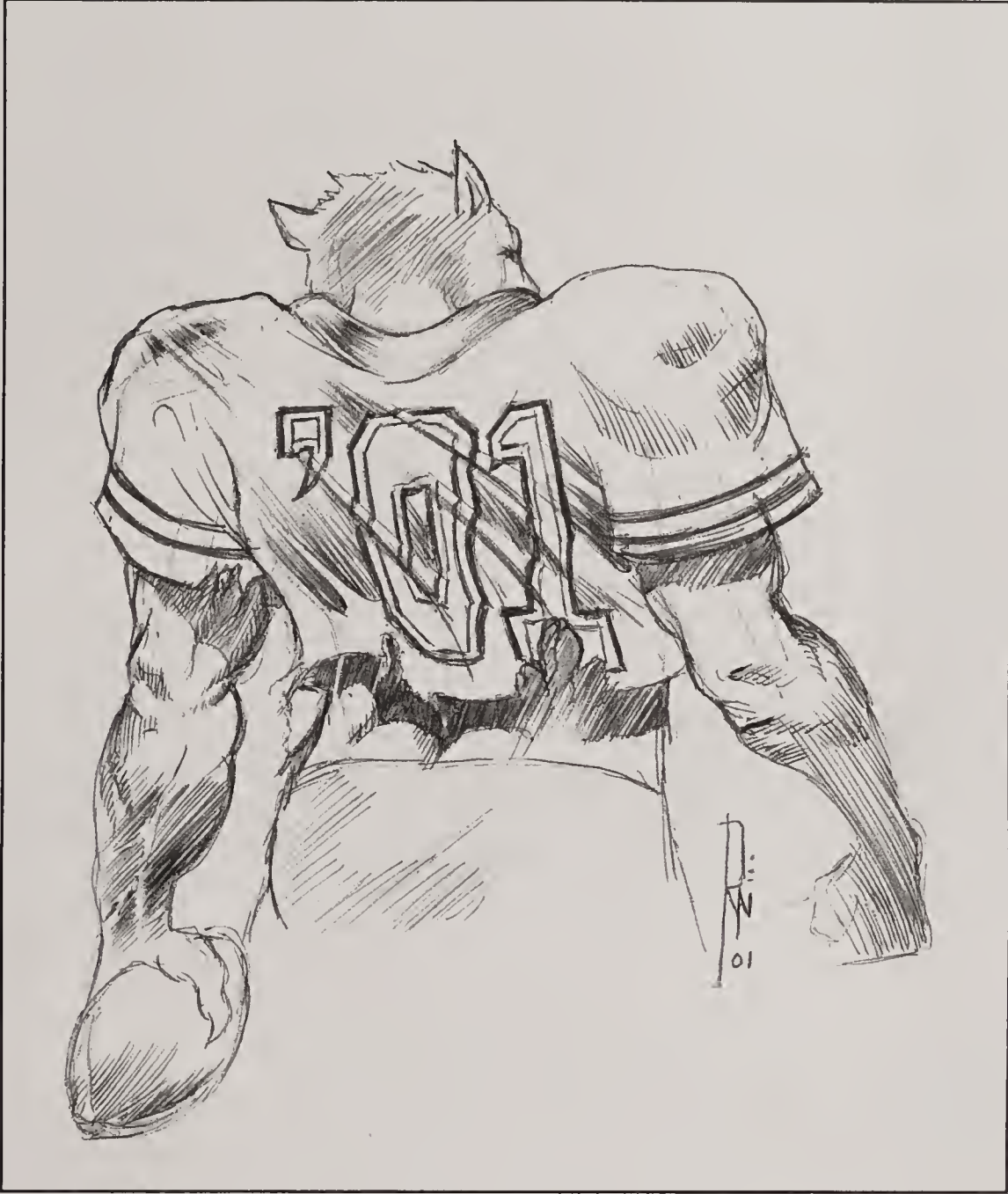
Jessica McTaggart: BLS boy's hockey team championship game playing at the Fleet Center. Gooooo Wolfpack!

Julia McLaughlin: Watching the hockey team play at the Fleet Center.

John Paul Bravo: My favorite Sports moment was when Byo Owelewa caught a pass last year during thr Westford Academy game and ran it for 50+ yards for the winning score. This made Latin 4-0 in the DCL and undefeated overall

Guy DeBros: Joey Coffey's frequent appearances at Thanksgiving games!

Jill Marrama: Hurling!



Anonymous: Would have to be the English-Latin game when Mr. Coffey/Wallace ran across the field.

Anonymous: Gary Webster hitting a game winning shot with an injured foot for JV B-ball.

Charlie Levin: Halfway through the third period in the state championship at the Fleet Center I was cut open with a skate and asked for a band-aid. In hindsight that's funny.

Charlie Levin: Beating the defending state champion Duxbury 5-0 at Umass Boston in the State Tournament.

Liz Walczak: Girls varsity soccer winning against Weston, state champs, 2-1 in fall 1999. It was our best game of the year- and probably the next year.

Michelle Miller: My favorite moment was stepping out onto the gym as fans, friends, and family cheered me and my step squad on during the Pep Rally. They followed us all the way to victory when we came in first in the second annual Step Squad For Life Championship.

Ugo Ojimba: I don't have one favorite sports moment, but I do have many great memories at BLS. They include double sessions, sacking QB's with Chinedu, my first touchdown reception, being tri-captain on Varsity Basketball, being a DCL All-League Football player, winning the Thanksgiving game, my coaches and teammates, last but not least the bus ride after the last football practice.

Ashley Britton: My favorite sport at the moment is basketball.

Charlie Levin: I really don't believe you can pick a favorite moment as I enjoyed all the time I spent with my teammates and Coach Coleman very much.

Anonymous: Holding up newspapers at BLS hockey games when the other team's line up was announced while everyone is wearing superfan shirts...incidentally if you would like one see Brian Danz.

Jeremy Jackson: Joey Coffey's first kilt-clad appearance at White Stadium.

Steve Delosh: Fall-after a 1-1 tie with Westford, with everyone watching Jonah came running onto the field with a Styrofoam cooler. Ten feet away from the rest of the team he tripped, fell, and dropped the cooler, shooting Gatorades everywhere. Winter-wrestling-BLS vs. LS-Dean Colpack wins a match by sitting on the opponents' head.

Michael Manning: Playing at the Fleet Center for the State Championship.

Karyn Rautenberg: Audra Russell tripping over a golf ball in left field. By the end of the play there were three of our players rolling on the ground laughing.

Nasty Nate pinning a kid in 8 seconds.

Biggie fighting off of his back to win the Canton Tournament.

Kevin Mac getting bit at Sectionals.

Farnkoff making states.
Winning the first softball tournament game at Lexington.

After a horrible running of the 4x800 at Reggie Lewis, Tam and I took a long relaxing run in the rain to forget about life for a while.

Lindsay Conlin: In ninth grade track, Julia McLaughlin ran into an electric box while running to the Fens.

Diego McCafferty: In 11th grade, we had a soccer game against Weston. Midway through a huge brawl broke out: red cards were issued; blows were thrown; the team became unified in the common goal of playing dirty and winning at any cost. We did end up getting the win that day (one of very few), so in celebration we all decided to strip off our clothes and jump into a nearby pond, situated on the Weston campus. Unfortunately, I didn't look where I was leapin' and ended up getting a fishhook caught in my foot. Then we all went to a party at BC and got really drunk later that night. It was great, and drinking liquor is lots of fun!!

RobMcLaughlin: Thanksgiving 2001, AKA Paul Costello Day.

Kevin MacDonald: My favorite sports moment was beating Westford Academy in my junior year. Bayo scored a 50+ yard touch down run with 40 seconds left to win the game.

Keith MacDonald: Keith MacDonald's exhilarating touchdown in the Latin-English game that saved Paul Costello Day for everyone.

Andy Barr: The day I scored three touchdowns to beat Westford Academy...yeah! Go Wolfpack! Wooooooo!

Becca Tumposky: That fabulous season where I, the sexy yet conniving manager of the golf team, whacked Newton South's star golfer on the back of the head with a steel chair to give us the victory. Go Wolfpack!

Erin Burke: Watching Caroline O'Donnell do the worm at D.C.L.'s last week, and then watching all the other juniors attempt to do it. All before running a 4x800 relay.

Our very first swim meet in eighth grade, Nicole Hogarty was ready to go in her first relay at BLS. However, as she realized she was wearing a watch (jewelery caused automatic disqualification), she desperately tried to get it off before she had to dive in. Yeah, she fell in the pool right on top of the lane line. That relay got disqualified anyways.

Running to track practice and seeing Joey Coffey posing for mulitple pictures. His outfit: A speedo, goggles, his track sneakers and a cape declaring himself the Chocolate Bandit. Even better was that he was supposed to be paid 30 dollars. He never got it.

Elizabeth Arias: In ninth grade when Caroline O'Donnell stuck her head out of the bus window with her Latin swim cap on sideways and her goggles on yelling "Yo amo nadar" to scared pedestrians.

Jonah Birch: When James Duane got into a fight with the Weston kid and punched him in the face.

Greg Porter: When the hockey team played in the Fleetcenter and came within 51 seconds of winning the D 2 state tourney.

And finally, who could forget.."At least we're going to college," "A-O," "Aflac" and other Glaugh type cheers.

Sports Spotlight



Brian Farnkoff

By Liz Arias, I
Staff Writer

Walking into class the other day, I was a little surprised to see a sprawling tent being pitched in the middle of the floor. What was this presentation on? In that instant, a person emerged from the nylon covering with a pack, Farnkoff. The name Brian Farnkoff has become synonymous to the senior class through his unique trademarks- to name a few- his Cyclops smiley face, a picture showcasing his ability at balancing a raccoon on his back as a child, being voted Biggest Flirt by his peers, and somehow being quoted in every issue of the school newspaper. It is Brian's unparalleled enthusiasm for all that he does, however, that has allowed for all his amazing successes.

Camping ...
While at Boston Latin, Brian has become an integral part of three athletic teams.
Only having begun playing football in 10th grade, Farnkoff rejoined the Wolfpack this year and rotated through the positions of corner, receiver, punt, and kickoff receiver. He lists the Acton-Boxboro match-up this season as his most memorable encounter. Always a resilient competitor and intense rival, A&B fell to Latin which dominated in the first half of the game.
Aside from football, Brian has been a member of the wrestling team since 8th grade and joined "because my brother would kill me around the house telling me to do it." Due to a collarbone injury, Farnkoff missed a season only to return more resolute than ever. Senior year, Brian was named the only captain by midseason and at the Canton

It seems amazing that such an athlete would be able to take on such a rigorous program and still excel in 4 AP's.

Tournament went 4 and 1 in one day and placed 3rd overall in the competition. At sectionals seeded 6th, Brian was able to bump his standing to 5th and also placed at States.
Overall, Farnkoff finished off the season with a 16-8 record in the 140 lbs. group. For anyone that has seen the wrestling team's grueling workouts, they would have to acknowledge the strict regimen placed on them and how difficult it must be to follow through three consecutive seasons. Brian would like to thank Kevin Daly for drilling with him every day last year and encouraging him this year, as well as his teammates for such a memorable experience.
Camping ...
Anyone that has ever spoken to Brian knows that baseball is his way of life. Farnkoff joined the Latin squad in 8th grade and made Varsity last year.() Outside of school, Brian plays for Parkway () and the Bay State Stingers with several of his Latin teammates. In the past, he placed 4th in the New England Regionals and in 1998 won the State Championship. It seems amazing that such an athlete would be able to take on such a rigorous program and still excel in 4 AP's. As a recipient of the Posse Scholarship, Farnkoff will be attending Hamilton College in the fall where he will continue with baseball. We all hope and expect that Brian will find great success in his time at Hamilton. We know that his inspirational attitude and determination will take him to high places in life.
Camping...

Superfan Bids a Final Farewell

By Joey Coffey, I
Superfan

This is it. The last issue of the Argo and the last time I get to report the sports highlights of the year. Before I begin I want to thank the Argo staff for all of their hard work and for providing Boston Latin students with updated, entertaining articles and information. You guys don't even realize how much I enjoy getting a new issue and just flipping through it. Thank you. And to the students and readers of the Argo, thank you, for without your enthusiasm and support the Argo wouldn't be what it is today: one of the best high school newspapers in the nation.
Since this is the last issue, Superfan would like to salute the seniors. For six years we have enjoyed eighteen seasons and countless memories. The Class of 2001 has left its imprimatur on every sport, musical group, theater group and journalistic group, and on all the clubs and activities at "Wolfpack High". I thank you for the moments we shared together as a class. Hope you enjoy this article.
Before we turn the pages of memories, we must stop and remember the losses. The deaths of football player, John Yessayan, and track runner Tam Pham, touched the entire purple and white community and will forever be a source of sadness. May God bless them and their families.
Despite these tragedies, the Wolfpack football squad led by John Paul Bravo responded to Coach Costello's challenge culminating with a tremendous victory on Thanksgiving Day, a day dedicated to John Yessayan and to Coach Costello in his last year. The post-game tribute included a gauntlet of players and former players from whom a tearful Coach Costello received handshakes and hugs in well-deserved kudos.
The fall season held many exciting games and meets. The boys and girls cross country teams showed great spunk throughout the season led by seniors Chris Coletta and Joe Coffey. The soccer team, both Boys' and Girls', held their own in the very competitive Dual County League. Seniors Capt. Tobin McKenna, Capt. Matt Wright, Jason Alukian, Jacob Bor, Jonah Birch, Anthony Hamad and Matt "Mix Master" Erlich led the boys team. For the girls' Capt. Laura Tobias, Alicia Tildsley, Holly Brideau, and Amy Cochrane, along with seniors Liz Walczak and Karyn Rautenburg were on the prowl. Kudos to the coaches and fans.
The golf team was led by senior Capt. Owen Roddy and seniors Brendan Connell, Dan Fitzgerald, Mike Manning, Danny "Roastbeef" O'Brien, Steve Tompkins, Dan Moran and Peter "Pedro" Foundas. The team had their best season ever in school history. Kudos to Coach Myers! Good job fellas!
The Girls Swimming team was led by Lauren "Cute Pie" Gilmore, Meghan Davoren, Erin Burke, Kara Keely, Stephanie "Speedy" Gonzalez, Allyson Whall, Heather Showstead, Suzanne Vo, Tricia Russell, Emily Poles, Nicole Devlin, Ashley O'Brien, Katie Curtin, and Sarita Frataroli. These girls had a great season and would like to say thank you to Coach Conley for all his hard work and time.
You wanted to see some action this winter? Well seniors Emily Conroy, Carolyn "Legs" Lennon and Gloria Shum provided the action. The Girls Volleyball team finished the season with a spike! Winter came quickly for the class of 2001, bringing with it all the anxiety and pressure of college search and decision making. However, the swim team, led by Dan "The Man" O'Reilly, Seth "Tan Man" Thomases, and Kevin "....." Mann, finished with a successful year despite the lack of numbers on the team. Dan and Seth were DCL League All-stars for the 2000-2001 season.
Kudos to the coaches and fans! The wrestling team had a strong show with John Paul Bravo a.k.a. "Biggie", Jason Allukian, Brian Farnkoff and Kevin "Mac" MacDonald who were all powerful captains in their league play. Tommy Chin "Train" and Leo "Gorgeous" Gannon also fought for victory in their last season on the mat. Other seniors are the unforgettable Jolly twins who own 'Best Rear View' for the senior class superlatives, Karyn "Rocker" Rautenburg and Rhys

"Pieces" Dudeney. Kudos to the coaches and players of both teams!
The girls indoor track team was awesome, lead by senior captains Aisha Court and Dee Owolewa. The team ended the season with a record of 6-2. They were also finalists in the Dual County championships. Abra Mason, Erin Burke, Lindsay Conlin, Jennifer Ruff, Katy Meade, and Jovia Leiville made up the senior squad and will be sorely missed. The boys' indoor track lead by seniors John Perakis and Chris Coletta had a strong work ethic and never lost their will to achieve. Kudos to the coaches and runners for their hard work.
The Girls Basketball team, led by Ashley "Prime Time" Britton, was riddled by injuries initially but ended the season on high notes. The boys team was filled with legend basketball seniors Capt. Ugo "Truballah" Ojimba, Capt. Keith MacDonald, Capt. Brian "Muscles from Brussels" Hughes, Dave Sullivan or "Sully", Gary "G-Money" Webster, Patty "Cakes" Pinto, Christian O'Donnell, and Chinidu Okongwu. These ballers showed a lot of guts against some stiff competition in the DCL league over the entire season. Kudos to the teams and their hard work.
Hockey was huge. Both Wolfpack boys and girls teams reached the finals of the State Championships. The girls', led by senior Jessica Price, showed why they continued to be champions even though they lost the final contest to a determined Dedham squad. The boys ended up at the Fleet Center after a heart stopping playoff series, defeating the former State Champions (Division II) Duxbury. It wasn't in the cards at the Fleet Center, but all players and coaches should be shown gratitude for giving us a thrill a minute. Kudos to seniors Brian Carthas, Charlie Levin, Nick Collins, Andrew Collins, Mike Manning, Jeff Arinella, John Tobin, and Joe Coffey. Senior goalie T.J. Hannon had an incredible season and saved the biscuit from getting "wet in the net" in many key games.
Spring sports as always are exciting and played during the busiest time at Wolfpack High with college acceptance letters, Asian Night, proms, theater performances, Music Night, the sports Banquet and graduation lurking ahead. It looks like the tennis, baseball, softball and track teams have performed well and are slated for berths in the State tournament. Kudos to seniors: Karyn Rautenburg/ softball, Anthony Hamad/tennis, Andrew Collins/baseball, and Aisha Cort/ track.
Girls' tennis is unstoppable. They haven't lost a match yet this spring at should receive much kudos. Coach Paulanne commented that the team plays some tough matches but handles every team with finesse. And I know Sarah Redd's name. Great job girls, keep up the good work!
Volleyball is here to stay due to the leadership of new head coach Sean McMorrow. The boys' were led by senior Capt. Paul Hourihan and Capt. Chris Lennon. Also the strength of the front-line included Kishore Sanriya and Noble Wong. Joe Coffey has got to learn how to stay out of the net. Kudos to Jason "Gooooo Woolfpack" Chou, Kenny Wong, Tru Lang, Jimmy Sun, Ernald Nichols, Khan "Finger" Tran and Jerrell a.k.a. J-dog (an experienced server). Good luck next year team!
All I have to say about Girls Crew is that they rock. Bottom line. Meghan Coyne, Patricia Courtney, Meghan Davoren, Julia Hartwig, and Amy Cochrane are the wildest group of rowers around. "Rock the boat girls" and keep working hard. Kudos to your coaches and their commitment to the team. (Good one, huh?)
The deeds are done, the poets are silent, the glory is gone, but let's take a few moments to savor the memories: Thanksgiving day football games, rolling out the wrestling mats, Fleet center, O'Bryant pool meets, Roberto Clemente speed workouts, volleyball in the gym, Franklin Park meets, shooting hoops, singles and doubles, soccer games in suburbia, the coaches, the music.....
Superfan bids a fond adieu.

Girls Tennis Sweeps League

(Continued from Page 28)
against elite teams such as Wellesley, Fontbonne and Notre Dame of Hingham, the team has found no significant competition.
The state individual's tournament has proven to be a time for the Latin girls tennis team to prove themselves beyond regular competition. The team lived up to expectations here, with Redd and Seide winning their third North State Champions title in as many years. Singles performed well too, with Fleming making it to the quarterfinals, and Preneta and Bartoloni making it to the round of 16.
In addition to playing high school tennis, the team

has made a commitment to playing tournaments in the USTA throughout the year. Extensive participation in these tournaments has allowed most of them to attain high rankings in New England. The strength of the team is reflected with these rankings, as Preneta currently has the number 11 position, Bartoloni has 16, Fleming has 22, Redd has 17, Seide has 29, and Perez-Hobrecke has the number 46 position.
While the team has approached the season with a winning attitude, they are remaining on track with their goal. As their record shows, the girls' tennis team is driven. The regular season ended with the team holding a perfect record of 20-0, promising future perfection.

DCL Can't Catch Latin Track

By Emily Robbins & Katy Meagher, II
Contributing Writers

The Boston Latin School Outdoor Track Team can be seen daily stopping rush-hour traffic in downtown Boston on their five-mile escapades. They are very focused on their dream to win another DCL Championship and end another season with a state title in hand.

The team's ongoing success has a great amount of credit going to its coaching staff, consisting of Mr. DaRocha, Ms. Pritchard, Ms. Kramer, Mr. McCollum, and Mr. Demella. For Mr. DaRocha, Ms. Pritchard and Ms. Kramer, this is their last year after many years of dedication to this large team. Their consistently positive attitudes over the years have greatly benefited all team members, and they will be dearly missed.

The Girls Team has been fortunate to have senior captains Aisha Cort and Adebola Owolewa. They, as well as the rest of the senior runners, will be missed. This season, junior captain Bridget Butler has been switching off, running the 800-meter and the one mile, achieving new records in both events. Senior Erin Burke has spent her season solely concentrating on her jumping events, and she hopes to have a repeat performance in the DCLs. The girls have also had the pleasure of having two great javelin throwers, Elizabeth Arias and Jillian Masmela, who have been scoring many points for

the team. The throwing captain, Alexandra Hanson, has been breaking her own records, and the same can be said for Katie Sullivan.

New to the team, Jessica Lambert and Megan Roundsville have been showing off their talents in the 400-meter and 800-meter. Caroline O'Donnell, returning this year from an injury, has been dominating the one mile. Another key runner is junior Kate Naber, who has significantly improved her time in the 800-meter since last year.

The Boys Team, though smaller in size, has had a great showing at track meets. Led by junior captains Chris Whitmore and Joan Duran, this team has concentrated on improving their ability this season. The team has successfully put together a notable 4x100 meter team, consisting of Whitmore, Duran, Max Bastian and Alhambra Yee. The throwers, Marcus Hughes and newcomers James Duffy and Brendan Malone, are another successful aspect of the team. Another member who has a great running season in the one mile is sophomore Ben Dockery.

As a team, both the girls' and boys' track have seen their struggles this year, but in a sport of individual accomplishments, the individual effort of each member of both Latin track teams are what really makes the Latin track program a success.

Boys Volleyball Spikes it Home

By Jimmy Sun & Adam Weiss, III
Contributing Writers

Wolfpack boys volleyball came out of the starting gate this season a little slower than they had expected, but their outlook is by no means dismal. Coming off of an impressive season last year, capped by a dominating 13-5 league record and a state tournament berth, this year's team has jumped out to a less-than-perfect 5-8 record, but is still not discouraged. Head Coach Sean McMorro's team, led by senior Capt. Paul Hourihan of class I and Capt. Chris Lennon of class IV, is noticeably improving, and is hoping to make a late run toward a state tournament invitation. Last year's triumphant team received a heavy blow from graduation, resulting in a team comprised largely of new faces. Joining Hourihan and Lennon are newcomers Noble Wong, Joey Coffey, and Kishore Sanariya of Class I, Khanh Tran, Jason Chou, Tru Lang, and Ernard Nicolas of Class II, and finally Kenny Wong and Jimmy Sun of Class III.

The team's troubles so far can be attributed to a number of factors. They play in an extremely difficult division, highlighted by defending State Champs Cambridge and a tried

and true BLA team. Furthermore, this year's squad may also suffer from a lack of experience. With a team comprised largely of first-year players and underclassmen, youthful mistakes are inevitable. In addition, they are lacking in height, which is constantly a disadvantage in their height-abundant division. In fact, some of Coach McMorro's truest words of wisdom are, "We need some tall guys!" This problem has been accentuated by the recent injury suffered by setter (one of the most important positions in volleyball) Khanh Tran, who dislocated his finger in a match against BLA. Sophomore Jerell Perez has been promoted from JV to Varsity to hopefully fill in the void.

Without a doubt, the team has improved rapidly throughout the season. As a result, they are striving for a strong finish, possibly culminating in a state tournament berth. Along the way, they could surely use some support. Let's show up at some of their games and show some Wolfpack spirit! Either way, though, the future of Wolfpack volleyball looks bright, with a number of promising young varsity and JV players just waiting for a chance to prove themselves!

Boys' Tennis Serves It Up Right

By Minh Nguyen, III
Contributing Writer

As the spring sport season comes to an end, Latin Warriors are packing up their equipment and returning to their respective sleeping habits. However, keep in mind that not all sport teams can walk away with excellent karma.

The boys' tennis team has been struggling to come out on top of the league for years. Approaching the end of the season, the team's record stands at 6-9. This year's lineup has been constantly changing. The team approached the season with a bolstered singles lineup, placing the three experienced seniors in those positions. After disappointingly close losses to Newton South, Wayland, and Acton-Boxboro, the team decided to place senior Jeremy Jackson at the first double's team. Seniors Roger Kueny and Anthony (T-Money) Hamad then moved up to first and second singles respectively. At whatever position he's played so far this year, playing a big role in the team's success thus far in the season has been eighth grader Jason Cramer at third singles. A big surprise for the team this year has been the strength of the singles line-ups throughout the league. This has caused Coach Bill Kates to look for key victories from the doubles teams. Sophomore Mike, "eyebrows," Kennedy and Qi Feng have put together another solid season as a doubles team this year. In the state individual tournament, they won three matches in a row, taking them to the quarterfinal round of the tourney. After mixing up the lineup halfway through the season, the decision was made to move Kennedy to first doubles to play with Jackson. Finishing out the season, sophomore Glenn Ryan continues to go to battle with Feng as the second doubles tandem.

Although it is not explicitly clear on record, the



members of the tennis teams are extremely able. They practice and play five days a week, sometimes in the worst of weather conditions. Some members even train during the summer and winter in different tennis complexes.

The progress made during this disappointing season has been arduous and difficult, with bad weather forcing them to play up to 5 matches in one week. The departing seniors can be assured that next year the boys' tennis team will be out for blood. The lineup next year will undoubtedly include sophomores Yemi Osinubi, Minh Nguyen, and freshman Karl Adams. In the future, these new Varsity hopefuls will add to the already noteworthy strength of the team.

The tennis team is a force of sheer determination. It takes much dedication and strength to play in freezing weather while wearing t-shirt and shorts. Tennis is a sport of intellect, strength, persistence, and nerve. As Anthony Hamad's marathon matches have demonstrated, consistency is key. Hamad's matches lasted on average well over 2 hours, with grueling points of shot after shot. The team has always been able to gather strength behind his boundless will to win.

Sports Spotlight



Karyn Rautenberg

By Erin Burke, I
Sports Editor

Softball is her life.

Everyone knows how important athletics are to Karyn Rautenberg (you remember, the only one at the Powder Puff game who actually tackled?). She started to play baseball at the young age of five until the age of twelve when she made the transition from baseball to softball. Upon taking up the sport of softball Karyn embraced the one activity that would soon start sculpting her entity as an athlete.

Karyn made the junior varsity team at Boston Latin at her first shot as a seventh grader. Back then the team had tremendous depth of talent, and since j.v. was comprised of several freshmen and sophomores it was quite an honor to make the cut so young. Karyn was on route to make her mark early on in her career.

Since then, Karyn has moved up to Varsity and has been an integral member ever since her promotion. Playing third base and short stop throughout her duration her at Boston Latin, short stop has been her primary focus the last couple of years. It has been her stellar fielding combined with an outstanding batting average that has earned Karyn several honors and distinctions at BLS. As a tenth grader Karyn was awarded with the Unsung Hero award, followed by her junior year award of Outstanding Performer. Last year Karyn was a D.C.L. All-Star and earned recognition with the league's highest average in batting. Outside of school, she participates in several competitive leagues which have earned her a booth at states, sectionals, and nationals for her fourth year coming. She notes that the transition from school softball to summer softball is often difficult due to the fact that she switches her position to a key outfielder, which can be damaging to one's batting average. However, Karyn continues her success in her outside school leagues with an ease most other people do not possess.

Besides softball, Karyn has exhibited her love for other sports as well, a characteristic which has earned her the title of Most Athletic in the senior class of 2001. Especially proficient at the shotput, Karyn was a prominent member of the Varsity Indoor Track team from grade seven until tenth, after which she decided to take the brave plunge into the sport of wrestling. She has also earned recognition for her soccer skills, a team of which she was a member from grade eight to twelve. Besides balancing three sports all year, Karyn has been a consistent hard worker at this school, sporting three APs and an honors class this year (Latin, Calculus, English, and Humanities). Her efforts have paid off as she will attend Union College in the fall, where she will continue her softball career of course.

Karyn would like to thank her friends and family, especially Mrs. Dolan who scouted her from CYO, Bob Fleming who exposed her to the world of junior Olympic softball, Ms. Gooding who was her first coach at school, and her sister Aliessa who she admits to influencing her greatly with her love and passion for sports.

Knowing Karyn since the seventh grade and listening to her in the car ride every morning definitely helped me write this article (I know more now about softball and wrestling than I ever expected to). She is a great friend with a passion for sports I have never seen from anyone else. It is her focus and determination which is especially inspiring, and it is certain that no matter what happens in Karyn's future she will turn into some sort of success. Her answer to one question sums up her personality in a nutshell as she was asked, "Do you want to continue softball in college or is this the end?"

Her response? "Oh no, softball will never end." And never will the legacy that she has left behind.

More Graduation Congratulations

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| <p>Congratulations, “KEVINMANN”! Love, Mom, Dad, David, +”Peppurr”</p> | <p>Daniel we are very proud The world awaits! Love Dad, Mom, Caity + Meghan</p> | <p><i>Danny O'Reilly- Despite deserting ice dancing dream, you are still fabulous success/ Costume is ready if you change your mind. Congrats! From E</i></p> |
| <p>Becca T.— Congratulations! We are so proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad</p> | <p>Eduardo, as time went by today, you stand in Front of me a tall, proud and handsome young man. Thank you for being who you are and for what you Have become. I am the luckiest woman to have been chosen to be your Mom. CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE OF BLS 2001!! We are full of pride and joy!</p> | <p>Janille, Great Job! May God continue to bless you exceedingly and abundantly. Love Ma</p> |
| <p>Jeff Arinella, you're the man! 6 years of the best school in the country. Approbation, hockey, baseball, you've done it all. With your Graduation from Boston Latin School, You are already a success story! Dad + everyone.</p> | <p>Congratulations, Mike It's been quite an adventure. Hope all your dreams will come true. Much Love, Mom, Dad + Ais</p> | <p>Congratulations Charlie, we are very proud of you and love you very much Ma, Dad, Joey, and Nana</p> |
| <p>Congratulations to the Class of 2001 A job well done</p> | <p>BRIAN — THANKS FOR A GREAT 6 YEARS!! PRINCETON IS LUCKY TO BE GETTING A MAN LIKE “CHICO”. LOVE YOU! MOM, DAD, SHANNON, TRIXIE + BANDIT</p> | <p>CONGRATULATIONS WY-WY! LOVE DAD, MOM, AIMEÉ, ROSS & RAYMOND</p> |
| <p>Dear Alana, we are all so proud of you and love you so much. We know you will be successful in whatever you do. Love, Mom, Dad, and Elizabeth</p> | <p>Continue to be an 'overcomer' in everything that you do, and 'step' on in Faith. Congratulations and Love, your sister, Kisha</p> | <p>Uncie, Congrats, you only took 18 years to finish. George and Bongo</p> |
| <p>DEAR LUCY, CONGRATULATIONS FOR ALL YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AT BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL! WE ARE ALL SO VERY HAPPY FOR YOU! I'M GOING TO MISS THE MORNING RADIO STATION FIGHTS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, DAD WILL MISS THE CONSTANT TELEPHONE RINGING, AND LAURA WILL BE EXCITED TO HAVE YOU CLOSE BY ON THE CAMPUS OF STONEHILL COLLEGE! DON'T EVER LOOSE THAT RAY OF SUNSHINE YOU ALWAYS SHARED WITH ME. WE LOVE YOU! MOM, DAD, AND LAURA</p> | <p>Congratulations Danny! —Nice Going— Love, Dad, Mom, Kevin & Michael</p> <p>Congratulations, LATOYA. We are very proud of you. Keep up the good work. Love, Mummy and Keion</p> | <p>Erin O'Keefe, Congratulations on a job well done Love Mom; Dad, + Mark</p> |

Still More Graduation Congratulations

| | | |
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| <p>"FABS"</p> <p>Congratulations, John Love, MOM AND DAD P.S. We loved your BROWNIES BY TOWNIES</p> | <p>SETH, WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU! ENJOY THE ADVENTURE! LOVE MOM, DAD, AND DREW</p> | <p>Congratulations To my Daughter Sonja On this Special Day. May God Bless And guide you Always As you continue On your Successful Journey. We All Love you. Mom + Dad family</p> |
| <p><i>Congratulations + Best Wishes to Ashley V. Britton on not only a job well done, but for being a person of phenomenal character! God Bless always Love Mom, Dad + Family</i></p> | <p>Kevin — Congratulations Carpe Diem Love Mom + Dad</p> | <p>KATIE, CONGRATULATIONS WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU. GOOD LUCK AT ASSUMPTION. LOVE DAD, MOM & JOEY</p> |
| <p>Congratulations! Danny F., Danny M., Greg, Robert, Brian L., Brendon, Matt, Brian D., Brian H. The Huethers</p> | <p>Caroline— Congratulations on a job well done! We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad, Lindsey, Amos, Lynis, and N.D.</p> | <p>Steph, You did it! We are so very proud of you. Dad and I wish you a life filled with happiness and much love. Love you always, Mom, Dad, Daniel, Sara, and Amanda</p> |
| <p>We love you little Re-Re. The forecast is bright and sunny!</p> <p>Mom, Dad, Alicia, Lynn, and Matthew</p> | <p>Kara You always have and always will make me very proud. Congratulations! Love You, Mom SWAK</p> | <p>Lauren, we are so proud of you for all you have accomplished over the past six years!! We hope you enjoy Lehigh University as much as you have Boston Latin School!!</p> <p>Love, Mom, Marianne, and Kelly</p> |
| <p>Dear Jean, You have done a wonderful job in your 6 years in BL. You continuously make us proud with your accomplishment. We are proud of you and hopefully, we Rachelle and Ricardo can follow your footsteps at BL. Good luck in B.C. and make us proud again. Love, the Calixte's</p> | <p>Princess Runamuck, Congratulations! to our favorite girl!! Love, Rag and Oscar</p> | <p>Steve, You did it! We're so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad Chris + Danny</p> |
| <p>CONGRATULATIONS PATRICK, ALIAS CLYDE. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU. LOVE MOM, DAD + ROB</p> | <p>Congratulations Hoang! We are very proud of you for all of your achievements at BLS. We wish you well in your next step at Tufts University. Good Luck, Mom+Dad+Sisters</p> | |
| <p>To the Remarkable Rose: Congratulations</p> | <p>To our girl, Congratulations!! Love, Rag and Oscar</p> | <p>Congratulations, Brian Love, Mom, Dad, Chris, and Danny</p> |

Even More Graduation Congratulations

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| <p>CONGRATULATIONS GREG WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU, AND WISH YOU MUCH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE. LOVE - MOM, DAD, ANDY, MICHELLE, KELLY AND THE BOYS</p> | <p>CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTINE LOVE, MOM & DAD MICHAEL, PAUL, & PUDGE</p> | <p>Our sweet daughter, Suzanne Chan, Congratulations to your success at BLS. You've done a marvelous job. We are very proud of you. Best of luck to your bright future and happiness throughout your life! Love, Mami and Baba</p> |
| | <p><i>Congratulations + Good Luck! to Sarah We Love You Love, Mom, Dad + Erica XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX</i></p> | <p>Congratulations to Dennis Ng!!! For Graduating Finally! Love, The Ng Family</p> |
| <p>LINDSAY— MAY YOUR DRIVE, AMBITION AND HARD WORK TAKE YOU TO NEW HORIZONS. LUNCH WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT WILL TAKE ON NEW MEANING. CONGRATULATIONS! BOOBER & RED</p> | <p>Congratulations Kara! We're all proud of you. Love Dad, Mom, Caitlin, Jackie + Brian</p> | <p>As the earlier learning centers of Greece, Rome, and the Irish Monks, Boston Latin too has prepared its students to go forth into the world. Congratulations Brian Lohan Dad & Mom</p> |
| <p><i>To Sarah Mairaud Congratulations! We love you Dad, Mom, Annie, Maura and Kevin</i></p> | <p>Congratulations To Chris Coletta!!! Happy Graduation and Best Wishes for a bright future. FROM DENNIS NG AND FAMILY</p> | <p>Katie Curtin – You've filled our lives with love and brought happiness to our days. Love, Mom & Dad Congratulations!</p> |
| <p>Best of Luck to the Class of 2001. Thank you to all BLS Teachers & Staff. ~ The Coyne Family</p> | | <p>Congratulations on your graduation day Cameron. We are so proud of you. Love Dad, Mom, Lance, Carolyn, Dawn, Cozy, and Jolié</p> |
| <p>JJ - You-da-man!</p> | <p><i>Dear Meghan, Congratulation ~ We are so proud of your many accomplishments. Love, Dad, Mom, Molly, Jake and Jared</i></p> | |
| <p>Dear Meg, VENI ~ VIDI ~ VINCI ~ BUTT! You Came ~ You Saw ~ You Kicked Butt !!! Hugs & Kisses ~ Auntie Kelly and Uncle Jim</p> | | <p>To Mr. LaCroix and everyone at the Math Department, THANK YOU for all the help and support over the years, FROM DENNIS NG AND FAMILY</p> |

You Can't Escape From Us Congrats!!!

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| <p>To Ms. Methelis, HAPPY RETIREMENT, And have lots of fun too!</p> <p>FROM DENNIS NG AND FAMILY</p> | <p>Congratulations Sitara L. Sadler. You did it with Pride, Dedication and commitment. Remember to carry this with you to College and we know you will succeed. Love Mom & DAD</p> | <p>Congratulations to Melissa Li!!! <i>Happy Graduation! Way to go Melsa!</i> FROM DENNIS NG AND FAMILY</p> |
| <p>Congratulations Anniekins! Thank you for all your hard work in taking the road "less traveled." Best wishes for continued success at Harvard!! luvooxx Mom and Dad</p> | <p><i>To Anne F. and Megan D. ~ Kindred Spirits~ You make the world a nicer place in everything you do! May your BLS memories begin a wonderful lifetime of achievement and happiness!</i></p> | <p>ANDREW AND NICHOLAS COLLINS CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES LOVE GRANDMA & GRANDPA, AUNTIE PAULINA & MARK, AUNTIE LIZ & UNCLE JODIE, UNCLE CHRIS & AUNTIE JOY, UNCLE CHARLES, COUSINS AND AUNTIE FLO</p> |
| <p>Congratulations Nnenna, we are very proud of you. God has crowned your tireless efforts with success. As you onto bigger and better projects, we ask the good Lord to continue to give you intelligence, grace, patience, and motivation along the way. We love you and send you greetings from Emeka, Daddy, Mummy, and all your aunts and uncles.</p> | <p>CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN AND KEITH</p> | <p><i>Ryan, As all of your tomorrows open themselves to you, never forget how proud we are of you and how much we love you. Mom and Dad</i></p> |
| | <p>To Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Montague and all the guidance counselors,</p> <p>You Lead A Great Flock!</p> <p>FROM DENNIS NG AND FAMILY</p> | <p>Great Job Ariel81916! We are all very proud of you. Remember to e-mail home now and then, and not just for \$... your room will always be there for you ... maybe ...</p> |
| <p>David, <i>You are the best! You're on your way. We love you!</i> Mom, Dad, and Kathleen</p> | <p>Diego No one is better prepared than you to live fully. Stay true to yourself. You've made us proud. Mami, Nahir, Taira</p> | <p>Congratulations Nicole, You earned it! Love, Mom, Dad and Christopher</p> |
| <p>Well done! Congratulations Elizabeth Walczak! From your family.</p> | <p>"I hope you never fear the mountains in the distance Never settle for the path of least resistance ..." To "Bunchies" With All Our Love, We Are So Proud of You, Mommy and Daddy</p> | <p>Andrew and Nicholas Collins Ipsa scientia potestas est. (p.2, Jenney's First Year Latin) love, Mom & Dad Michaela BLS'99, James BLA'04, Mariella BLS'07, Olivia BLS'09</p> |
| | <p>Congratulations to you, Tricia, on your graduation!</p> <p>Love Mom!</p> | |
| <p>Sinead, Well done!</p> <p>Go n'eirigh an bothair leath</p> <p>Love Dad, Mom & Kieran</p> | | |



We are the Wolfpack, the mighty mighty Wolfpack...

William Wallace

HUSKIES
RADIO
AM 740

WOLFPACK '01

2K1

I say purple, you say white...

Friends never let friends finish last.